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THE NEW YORK METS OFFICIAL 1984 YEARBOOK

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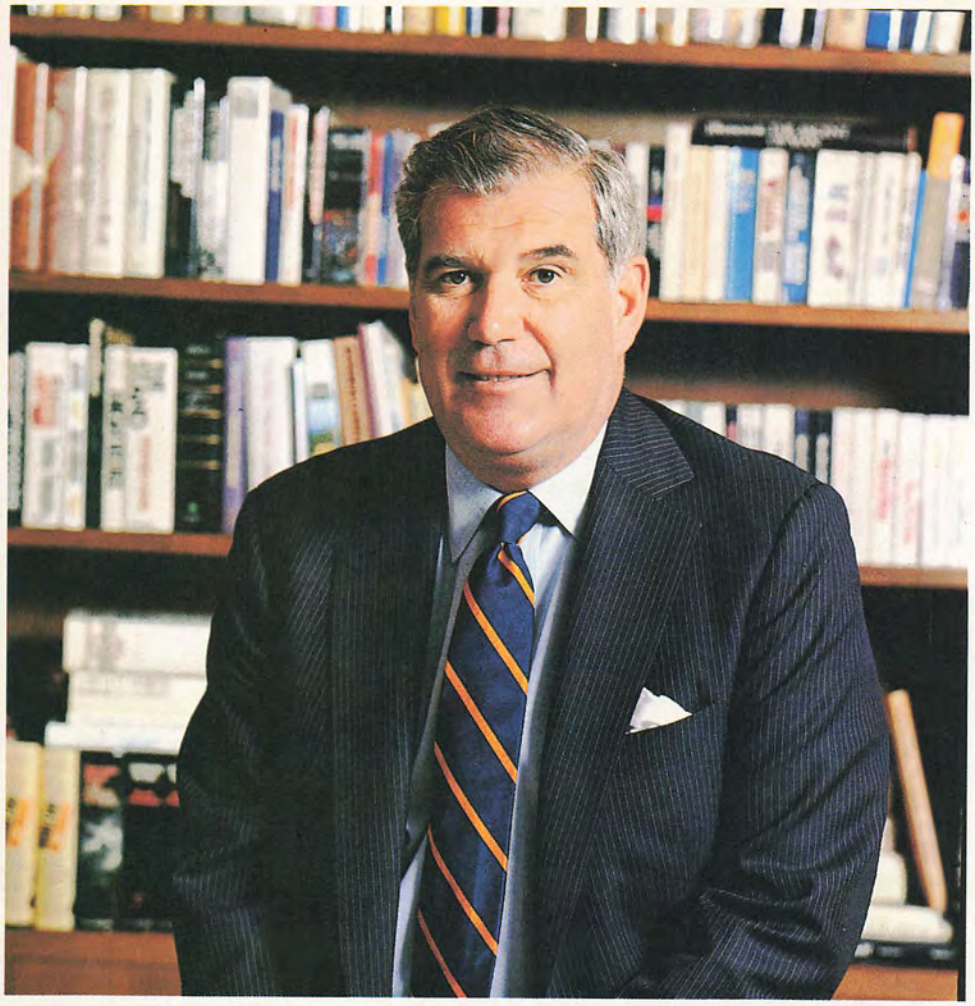

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Frank Cashen meets weekly with the Mets' Vice-Presidents. They are (L to R) Al Harazin, Vice President, Baseball Administration; Harry O'Shaugnessy, Vice President, Finance and Administration; and Bob Mandt, Vice President, Operations.

Pictured in top photo are Michael Aronin (right), Vice President, Marketing, and John Doht, Vice President, Special Projects.

Frank Cashen begins his fifth season with the Mets. As Executive Vice President, General Manager and Chief Operating Officer, he is ultimately responsible for the club's entire operation whether it be marketing, finance, stadium operations, or baseball.

There are many visible signs of Cashen's efforts over the past four seasons including Diamond Vision and stadium improvements. Revisions in the Mets' broadcasts on radio and television have proved very popular with the fans, and probably most importantly, ticket prices are among the lowest in baseball.

While maybe not as evident to the fans, Cashen vowed to make the minor league system one of the strongest in baseball, and he has kept his promise. Last year the Mets were named the Organization of the Year by two separate sources, and executives from other teams will confirm that the Mets are stocked with major league prospects. Darryl Strawberry was the first of what hopefully will become a long list of "home-grown" talent to make the big leagues under Cashen's tenure.

When Cashen joined the Mets he inherited a major league club that had finished last for three straight years, and he stressed that rebuilding the franchise would take time. He emphasized the need for a strong foundation by way of a strong farm system. With that accomplished, he strongly believes that the young talent combined with the veterans already on the club, will produce a winner in the very near future.

"Personally, I feel we have the talent to be a contender in 1984," Cashen said. "For the past few years, the Mets have been on the verge of fielding a winning team, but then seem to come up short. We expect good pitching, triggered by our young staff and better offensive output, so I think '84 and the next couple seasons will be very interesting for Mets' fans."

Cashen and new manager Dave Johnson were both with the Orioles when the Mets beat Baltimore to take the World Championship in 1969. Cashen watched and suffered from his seat in the stands as General Manager, and Johnson flied out to left at Shea for the final out of the Series.

Now, 15 years later, there's nothing more Cashen would like than to see Dave in another World Series at Shea Stadium.

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NEW YORK METS 1984 SCHEDULE

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 CIN 2:05 TV	3	4 CIN 7:35 TV	5	6 HOUS 8:35 TV	7 HOUS 8:35 TV
8 HOUS 7:05 TV	9	10 ATL 7:40 TV	11 ATL 5:40	12	13 CHI 2:20 TV	14 CHI 3:20 S
15 CHI 2:20 TV	16	17 MON 1:35* TV	18 MON 1:35* TV	19 SC MON 1:35* S	20 PHIL 8:05 TV	21 PHIL 3:15
22 PHIL 1:35 TV	23 MON 1:05	24 MON 1:05 S	25 MON 1:05 S	26	27 PHIL 8:05 TV	28 SC PHIL 1:35 S
29 PHIL 1:35* TV	30					

MAY

		1 CHI 7:35 S	2 CHI 7:35 S	3 TIDE 7:00	4 HOUS 8:05 TV	5 HOUS 7:35 TV
6 HOUS 1:35* TV	7 CIN 7:35 TV	8 CIN 7:35 S	9 ATL 7:35 TV	10 SC ATL 1:35 TV	11 LA 10:35 TV	12 LA 4:05
13 LA 4:05 TV	14	15 SF 10:35 TV	16 SF 3:05	17	18 SD 10:05 TV	19 SD 10:05 TV
20 SD 4:05 S	21	22 SF 7:35 S	23 SF 7:35 S	24 SF 7:35 TV	25 LA 8:05 TV	26 LA 1:20
27 LA 1:35 TV	28 H SD 1:35* TV	29 SD 7:35 S	30 SD 7:35 TV	31 ST L 7:35 S		

JUNE

					1 ST L 8:05 TV	2 ST L 7:35* TV
3 ST L 1:35 TV	4 PITT 7:35	5 PITT 7:35 S	6 PITT 7:35 S	7	8 MON 7:35 S	9 MON 7:35 TV
10 MON 1:05 TV	11 PITT 7:35 S	12 PITT 7:35 S	13 PITT 7:35 S	14 ST L 8:35 TV	15 ST L 8:35 TV	16 ST L 8:05 TV
17 ST L 2:15 TV	18	19 PHIL 7:35 S	20 PHIL 7:35 S	21 SC PHIL 1:35 S	22 MON 8:05	23 MON 1:35* S
24 MON 1:35 TV	25 PHIL 7:35	26 PHIL 7:35 S	27 PHIL 7:35 TV	28 ATL 7:35 S	29 ATL 8:05 TV	30 ATL 7:35 S

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 ATL 1:35 S	2 HOUS 7:35 S	3 HOUS 7:35 S	4 H HOUS 7:35* S	5 CIN 7:35 S	6 CIN 8:05 TV	7 CIN 7:35 TV
8 CIN 1:35* TV	9	10 SF-NL All Star	11	12 ATL 7:40 TV	13 ATL 7:40	14 ATL 7:40 TV
15 ATL 2:10 TV	16 HOUS 8:35 TV	17 HOUS 8:35 TV	18 HOUS 8:35 TV	19 CIN 7:35 S	20 CIN 7:35	21 CIN 7:05 TV
22 CIN 2:15 TV	23 ST L 7:35 S	24 ST L 7:35 S	25 SC ST L 1:35 TV	26	27 CHI 8:05* S	28 CHI 1:35 S
••29 CHI 1:05* TV	30 ST L 8:35 TV	31 ST L 8:35 TV				

AUGUST

			1 ST L 1:35	2 PITT 7:35	3 PITT 7:35 TV	4 PITT 7:05 TV
5 PITT 1:35 TV	6 CHI 4:05 S	7 CHI 2:20 S	8 CHI 2:20 S	9 PITT 7:35 TV	10 PITT 8:05 TV	11 PITT 7:35 TV
12 PITT 1:35* TV	13 LA 10:35 TV	14 LA 10:35 S	15 LA 10:35 S	16	17 SF 11:05 S	18 SF 4:05 TV
••19 SF 3:05 S	20 SD 10:05 S	21 SD 10:05 S	22 SD 10:05 TV	23	24 SF 8:05 TV	25 SF 7:35 TV
26 SF 1:35 TV	27 LA 7:35 S	28 LA 7:35 TV	29 LA 7:35 S	30	31 SD 8:05 TV	

SEPTEMBER

						1 SD 7:35 TV
2 SD 1:35* TV	3 H ST L 6:35 S	4 ST L 8:35 TV	5 PITT 7:35 S	6 PITT 7:35 S	7 CHI 8:05 S	8 CHI 7:35 TV
9 CHI 1:35 TV	10 ST L 7:35 S	11 ST L 7:35 S	12 PITT 7:35 TV	13 SC PITT 1:35 TV	14 CHI 2:20	15 CHI 3:20 S
16 CHI 2:20 TV	17 PHIL 7:35 S	18 PHIL 7:35 S	19 PHIL 7:35 S	20	21 MON 8:05 TV	22 MON 1:35* S
23 MON 1:35 TV	24 PHIL 7:35 S	25 PHIL 7:35	26 PHIL 1:35 TV	27	28 MON 7:35 TV	29 MON 7:35 TV
30 MON 1:05 TV	All home and away games are New York time					

All games on WHN (1050) Radio

*1984 PROMOTION DATES

EVENT	DATE
Opening Day	Tues., April 17
Team Calendar Week (All) (Getty)	Tues.-Thurs., April 17-18-19
Strawberry Sunday (All) (Carvel)	Sun., April 29
Helmet Day (15 & under) (Manufacturers Hanover Trust)	Sun., May 6
Leisure Bag Day (All)	Mon., May 28 (Memorial Day)
"Flip-Flops" Night (16 & older)	Sat., June 2
Mets Cap Day (All) ("Hot Wheels" by Mattel)	Sat., June 23
Fireworks Night	Wed., July 4
Bat Day (15 & under) (Manufacturers Hanover Trust)	Sun., July 8
U.S.A. Cap Day (All) (Coca Cola)	Fri., July 27
Banner Day (Emerson)	Sun., July 29
Shirt Day (15 & under) (Sportschannel)	Sun., August 12
Sports Watch Day (15 & under)	Sun., September 2
Fan Appreciation Day (All)	Sat., September 22

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ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

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Reds, Mets get high marks for '83 draft
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Dave Johnson New Mets skipper
BASEBALL AMERICA'S 1983 Organization of the Year
Dwight Gooden Pitching phenom
Darryl Strawberry Top rookie hope
Lynchburg . . . Talented Class A champs

There's an axiom in baseball that says that an organization is only as good as its farm system. In the Mets' case, it wasn't just good in 1983. Rather–according to Baseball America and Topps Chewing Gum–it was the best in the game.

Both Baseball America, a tabloid newspaper recognized nation-wide as the top minor league authority, and Topps, number one in the baseball card industry, presented the Mets with their prestigious "Organization of the Year" awards for 1983.

General Manager Frank Cashen has stressed that one of the top priorities in rebuilding the Mets is to develop a strong minor league system, one that will provide the foundation for success at the major league level. With the emergence of the farm system as one of baseball's best, hopefully the results will soon show on the major league level as they did in the period from 1969-76.

During those years the Mets enjoyed their most productive seasons winning the World Championship in '69 and the Pennant in '73. They played over .500 baseball in seven of those eight years, and that success is directly attributable to players developed on the farm, most notably pitchers. Key acquisitions played a major role also, but it must be remembered that players like Jerry Grote, Donn Clendenon, Rusty Staub, and Felix Millan, all came to the club in return for players in the organization.

If you examine the players from that era and the year in which they established themselves with the Mets, it becomes obvious what the system meant to the team's winning ways:

1965–Ron Swoboda, Tug McGraw.
1966–Cleon Jones.
1967–Tom Seaver, Bud Harrelson.
1968–Jerry Koosman, Ken Boswell, Nolan Ryan, Jim McAndrew.
1969–Gary Gentry, Duffy Dyer, Amos Otis.
1970–Wayne Garrett, Mike Jorgensen.
1971–Ken Singleton, Tim Foli, Danny Frisella.

All were "home-grown" and contributed to the championship teams, whether they were with the Mets or used in trades to acquire players from other clubs.

The present Mets' organization appears to be ready to produce with similar results. In recent years the system has produced the likes of Mookie Wilson, Hubie Brooks, and Neil Allen, and last year Jose Oquendo, Doug Sisk, and of course, the league's top rookie, Darryl Strawberry. And further, judging from last year's accomplishments, the farm should continue to generate talent in the years to come.

Other than Cashen, the men directly responsible for the current success in the minor league operation are Lou Gorman, who was the VP-Baseball Operations but recently was rewarded with the top job with the Boston Red Sox; Joe McIlvaine, Director of Scouting who is responsible for directing a staff of 21 full-time scouts and

the subsequent checking, drafting, and signing of new talent; and Steve Schryver, the Director of Minor League Operations who guides the careers of the players once they are under contract to the Mets. Obviously, the system relies on the managers, coaches, and minor league instructors at each club for taking the raw talent and transforming it to major league caliber ability.

The Mets have six farm teams and in 1983 their combined record was tops in baseball. Two teams–Tidewater (AAA) and Lynchburg (A)– won championships, while two others–Jackson (AA) and Columbia (A)–lost in the championship playoffs. Little Falls (A) finished in 2nd place.

Besides winning the organization awards, many individuals also garnered honors in 1983. By far the most outstanding performance was turned in by 19-year-old Dwight Gooden. Dwight, the number one pick in the '82 draft, was 19-4 at Lynchburg and struck out 300 batters, the most in professional baseball last year. He was named Minor League Player of the Year by Baseball America, as well as Most Valuable Pitcher in the Carolina League, and pitcher on the Class A All-Star team.

Walt Terrell, who was 8-8 with the Mets, was 10-1 at Tidewater before joining the big club in June and at year's end was named the International League's Most Valuable Pitcher for '83. Lynchburg centerfielder Len Dykstra stole an incredible 105 bases in 128 attempts and batted .358 to win the Most Valuable Player Award in the Carolina League.

Managers, as well as General Managers, won their share of awards. Three former major leaguers–Sam Perlozzo, John Tamargo, and Mike Cubbage–all were Manager-of-the-Year in their respective leagues. Perlozzo won the honor with Lynchburg, Tamargo with Columbia of the South Atlantic League, and Cubbage at Little Falls in the NY-Penn League. General Managers Frank Capiello of Lynchburg and Bill Blackwell of Columbia were named Executive of the Year in their respective leagues–the Carolina League and the South Atlantic League.

There is no question in anyone's mind that the Mets are loaded with prospects in the minor leagues. The success of the Mets' farm system was well rewarded in 1983 and the hope is that the talent will eventually result in wins on the major league level. The names–Gooden, Leary, Christensen, Cochrane, Dykstra, Winningham, Blocker, Jefferson, etc.–may well be the "Amazin Mets" in the very near future.

Of the 26 major league baseball organizations in 1983, the Mets had the highest cumulative won-loss record among their farm teams. Listed below is the top ten. The number in brackets lists the number of farm clubs.

	W	L	PCT.
METS (6)	**396**	**294**	**.574**
New York Yankees (5)	353	284	.554
Baltimore Orioles (5)	299	268	.527
Milwaukee Brewers (5)	326	296	.524
Los Angeles Dodgers (6)	355	325	.522
Montreal Expos (6)	365	336	.521
St. Louis Cardinals (7)	435	401	.520
Atlanta Braves (6)	362	334	.520
Cleveland Indians (4)	257	237	.520
Chicago White Sox (5)	280	263	.516

For Steve Schryver, Director of Minor League Operations (left) and Joe McIlvaine, Director of Scouting (right), developing talent for the majors is their business.

Darryl Strawberry
N.L. Rookie-of-the-Year

Walt Terrell
Int'l League Most Valuable Pitcher

Dwight Gooden
Baseball America Minor League
Player-of-the-Year
Carolina League Most Valuable Pitcher

Len Dykstra
Carolina League MVP

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THE METS STAFF

Front Row: (left to right) TIM HAMILTON, STEVE SCHRYVER, ARTHUR RICHMAN, BOB MANDT, LOU GORMAN, FRANK CASHEN, AL HARAZIN, HARRY O'SHAUGHNESSY, JOE McILVAINE, MARIE MELLUSO, JAY HORWITZ.

Second Row: THERESA MURPHY, NANCY McLERNON, FRANCES URCIUOLI, ETHEL WELLER, PAT McLAUGHLIN, RITA MILLER, JANE CHOQUETTE, LISA FRANK, ANGELA CASTURANI, PATTI HEFFERNAN, RANDYE RINGLER, JAMES PLUMMER.

Third Row: RHONDA LEV, IVAN RIVERA, MARCELLA DRUMM, JUAN ALICIA, KAREN COP, PAT ALBANESE, KATHY CANNON, TOMMY HOLMES, PAUL MACCHIA, LORRAINE HAMILTON, BILL GRUNDEL, JEAN COEN.

Fourth Row: MICHELLE KREMBERG, RUSS RICHARDSON, MARYANNE GUGLIOTTO, DENNIS D'AGOSTINO, FRANK SARANO, VIO MOCUTA, BILL REICHWEIN, MIKE RYAN, TOD TILLOTSON, TOM DOYLE, JOE MILLIN.

Missing from photo: Jacqueline Corcoran, Bobby Yost, Bill Ianniciello, John McCarthy, Pete Flynn, Jack Franchetti, John DiLeo.

5 DAVE JOHNSON

Orioles '65–'72

Braves '73–'75

Phillies '77–'78

Cubs '78

Tokyo Giants '75–'76

Dave Johnson has been associated with winners throughout his professional baseball career, and he sees no reason why 1983 should be any different.

"I've been with the Mets' organization for three years now," said Dave. "I know from first-hand experience that there is plenty of young talent in our minor league system and on the big league roster. It's my job to take that talent and put wins on the board."

Dave, a four-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove second baseman, spent 13 years in the major leagues. For the Orioles from 1965-72, he appeared in four World Series and helped Baltimore to World Championships in 1966 and 1970. In '73 for Atlanta, he hit 42 homers as a second baseman tying Rogers Hornsby's all-time mark for home runs at that position.

The 41-year-old Florida native has managed three seasons in the minors and won championships all three years. For the Mets, his Jackson (AA) club won the Texas League title in 1981, and last year he managed Tidewater to the Triple-A World Series Championship.

While in Baltimore Dave took courses at Johns Hopkins University, and that schooling led to an interest in computers which he plans to utilize this year. He will use a computer to assess strengths and weaknesses of both the Mets and their opponents.

"I'll take advice from everyone and everything," Dave said. "Whether it's my coaches or a computer, every little bit helps."

COACHES

Frank Howard,
Outfield/First Base
Mel
Stottlemyre,
Pitching
Bill Robinson,
Batting
Vern Hoscheit,
Catching/
Bullpen
Bobby Valentine,
Infield/Third Base

METS MANAGERS

When you are named manager of a New York baseball team, you become an instant celebrity. With that celebrity status, the public demands to know more about you, where you're from, what you're like, how you think, your plans and how you'll go about your job. Your life becomes public domain, just ask Dave Johnson.

Dave has been described in many ways by many people since he was chosen as the eleventh manager of the Mets on October 13, 1983. He has been called "gritty", "fearless", "up-front", "blatantly honest", "arrogant", etc., but one adjective that's a constant throughout is "confident".

Dave established that confidence immediately upon taking the microphone at the press conference announcing his appointment. Some of his quotes were—"I want to thank Frank Cashen for having the intelligence to hire me"; "As I look at it, I was the best choice the Mets could have made"; "If I feel I'm right about something, I'll speak my mind, I'm not real good at sweetening my words."

Dave isn't interested in the future, he plans to win this season. "We're going to put the best players on the field and win as many games as we possibly can. The farm system has developed enough, it's time to win in the majors. The organization is in great shape with young prospects, but we're finished building as far as I'm concerned—we're here to win. I didn't take this job to suffer."

Gil Hodges, the most successful manager in Mets history, exhibited much the same confidence when he assumed control of the Mets in 1968. Gil came to the Mets from the Washington Senators and immediately set the tone that spring with a quiet but strong, firm but fair attitude that marked his tenure as manager of the Mets.

Hodges, the most successful skipper and only Mets manager with a plus .500 career record, won 339 games in four years and led the team to the '69 World Championship. The 1967 Mets team that he inherited had lost 101 games, and two years later, the '69 club won 100.

Without question, the most flamboyant and unforgettable Mets manager was the very first—Casey Stengel. The early Mets lost, and lost a lot. In 1962, they set a modern major league record for the most losses in one season, 120, but led by Casey, they became the love of New York.

Casey set the tone for his period with the Mets with one of his very first quotes. When the Mets announced that Casey would become the team's first manager, he said, "It'll be great to be back in the Polo Grounds. It's a great honor to be joining the Knickerbockers." The "Old Professor", in his own inimitable style, had slipped and told the world he was either joining a basketball team, or he had merely confused the Mets with the very first organized baseball team in New York, the Knickerbockers of 1846.

In 1965, Casey was forced into retirement when he broke his hip in August. Wes Westrum, a coach and a fan favorite from his days as catcher for the New York Giants, took over. Westrum produced good results in 1966 as the Mets avoided 100 losses for the first time, and consequently moved out of last place in the National League.

In 1967 however, the club dropped back into last place, and amid rumors that he would be fired at the end of the year, Westrum resigned with eleven games left in the season. Third base coach Salty Parker became the manager, and thus became the only manager to wear the label, "interim." (Roy McMillan in 1977 and Frank Howard last year were managers who finished seasons but did not return to manage the following year. However, both were named manager without the tag "interim," and both were legitimate candidates for the job.)

The Hodges era followed from 1967 until his untimely death at the end of spring training in 1972. Yogi Berra became the Mets' fifth manager just prior to the start of the season. Yogi had managed the Yankees to a pennant in 1964 and had been Hodges' first base coach. He was a good choice to carry on the winning tradition established by Gil.

Yogi has the second best winning percentage to Hodges, managing over three seasons with a 292-296 won and loss record. The 1973 season read like a soap opera, but in the end he had managed the club to the pennant with an 82-79 record. Things were so bad at one point during the year that a local newspaper ran a poll among the fans as to whether or not Yogi should be fired. Incredibly the Mets rallied not soon after behind Tug McGraw's 'Ya Gotta Believe' inspiration, and went from last place on August 30 to the pennant by season's end.

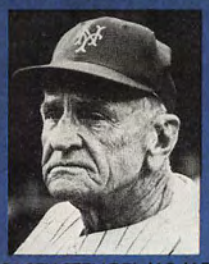
Roy McMillan took over after Yogi was let go in early August 1975, and managed the club to a 26-27 record till the end of the year. In 1976, Joe Frazier, with some 30 years in baseball and four pennants as a manager in the Mets' farm system, was awarded the job. Frazier managed the Mets in '76 to the team's second best single season record, 86-76, bettered only by the '69 Champs. Amidst all the turmoil surrounding ownership and their stand-off with Tom Seaver and Dave Kingman in 1977, Frazier was fired and replaced by then veteran player, Joe Torre, on May 31.

Torre holds three distinctions as the Mets' eighth manager. He was the youngest, 36 years-old; he was the only player-manager, 18 days and two plate appearances; and he managed the most games in the team's history, 706 games to Hodges' 648. Unfortunately for Joe, his teams won no more than 67 games in one season, and although he weathered a change in ownership, he was fired at the end of the 1981 season.

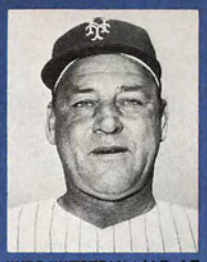
George Bamberger, a very successful and popular manager with the Brewers from '78 through mid-season in 1980, was named the ninth manager for the 1981 season. Bamberger managed into 1982, but resigned suddenly last June. Frank Howard replaced George and managed the remainder of the year. The Mets played respectable baseball under Howard with a 52-64 record, and the organization was very grateful when he agreed to return as coach this season under new manager Dave Johnson.

Ten men have preceded Dave Johnson as manager of the Mets—from the charisma of Stengel, the serious leadership of Hodges, the easy style of Yogi, the patience of Torre, to the two-year regime of Bamberger and Howard. It's up to Johnson to set a winning tone on a club that's played under .500 baseball for seven straight seasons.

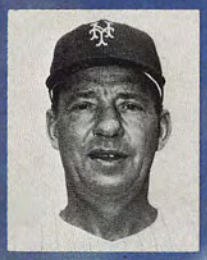
If anybody can do it, it's Dave Johnson.



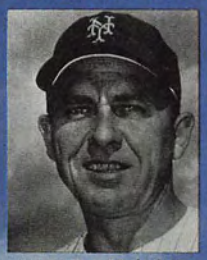
CASEY STENGEL '62-'65



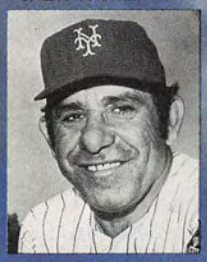
WES WESTRUM '65-67



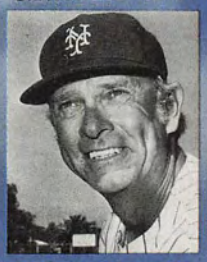
SALTY PARKER '67



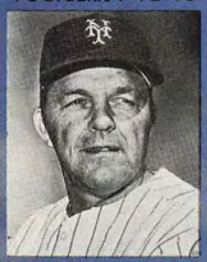
GIL HODGES '68-'71



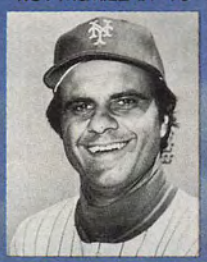
YOGI BERRA '72-'75



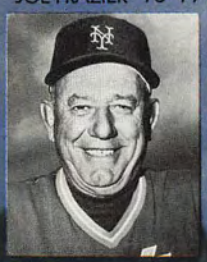
ROY McMILLAN '75



JOE FRAZIER '76-'77



JOE TORRE '77-'81



GEORGE BAM
'82-'83

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LADY METS

The Lady Met Club, one of our longest running fan club organizations, combines an interest in Mets baseball with the opportunity to contribute to various charitable organizations. The Lady Mets sponsor several ballgame outings throughout the season and occasionally plan out-of-town baseball trips. Their Annual Holiday Giving Party raises funds for selected charities; guests are also asked to bring along toys to be distributed to underprivileged children. A highlight of this party is the Player Auction, where Mets representatives are on-hand to do the auctioneering.

Anyone interested in joining the Lady Met Club, please send $1.50 to cover mailing costs to: Lady Met Club, Shea Stadium, Flushing, NY 11368.

1983-84 President, Dorothy Tangel, and Club Member, Marie Iannucci, present Most Favorite Player Award to Jesse Orosco at Lady Met luncheon at Shea.

Lady Met Club Treasurer, Pauline Mercado, and President, Dorothy Tangel, with toys donated at the Annual Holiday Giving Party.

PITCHERS

1962
Jay Hook
Roger Craig
Al Jackson
Bob Miller
Ken MacKenzie
Craig Anderson

1963
Al Jackson
Roger Craig
Carl Willey
Tracy Stallard
Larry Bearnarth
Galen Cisco

1964
Jack Fisher
Tracy Stallard
Al Jackson
Galen Cisco
Bill Wakefield
Larry Bearnarth

1965
Jack Fisher
Al Jackson
Warren Spahn
Galen Cisco
Larry Bearnarth
Gordie Richardson

1966
Jack Fisher
Dennis Ribant
Bob Shaw
Rob Gardner
Jack Hamilton
Bill Hepler

1967
Tom Seaver
Jack Fisher
Don Cardwell
Rob Shaw
Ron Taylor
Don Shaw

1968
Tom Seaver
Jerry Koosman
Don Cardwell
Dick Selma
Ron Taylor
Cal Koonce

1969
Tom Seaver
Jerry Koosman
Gary Gentry
Don Cardwell
Ron Taylor
Tug McGraw

1970
Tom Seaver
Jerry Koosman
Gary Gentry
Jim McAndrew
Tug McGraw
Ron Taylor

1971
Tom Seaver
Gary Gentry
Jerry Koosman
Nolan Ryan
Danny Frisella
Tug McGraw

1972
Tom Seaver
Jon Matlack
Gary Gentry
Jerry Koosman
Tug McGraw
Danny Frisella

1973
Tom Seaver
Jerry Koosman
Jon Matlack
George Stone
Tug McGraw
Harry Parker

1974
Jerry Koosman
Jon Matlack
Tom Seaver
Harry Parker
Tug McGraw
Bob Miller

1975
Tom Seaver
Jerry Koosman
Jon Matlack
Randy Tate
Bob Apodaca
Rick Baldwin

1976
Jon Matlack
Tom Seaver
Jerry Koosman
Mickey Lolich
Skip Lockwood
Bob Apodaca

1977
Jerry Koosman
Nino Espinosa
Jon Matlack
Craig Swan
Skip Lockwood
Bob Apodaca

1978
Jerry Koosman
Nino Espinosa
Craig Swan
Mike Bruhert
Skip Lockwood
Dale Murray

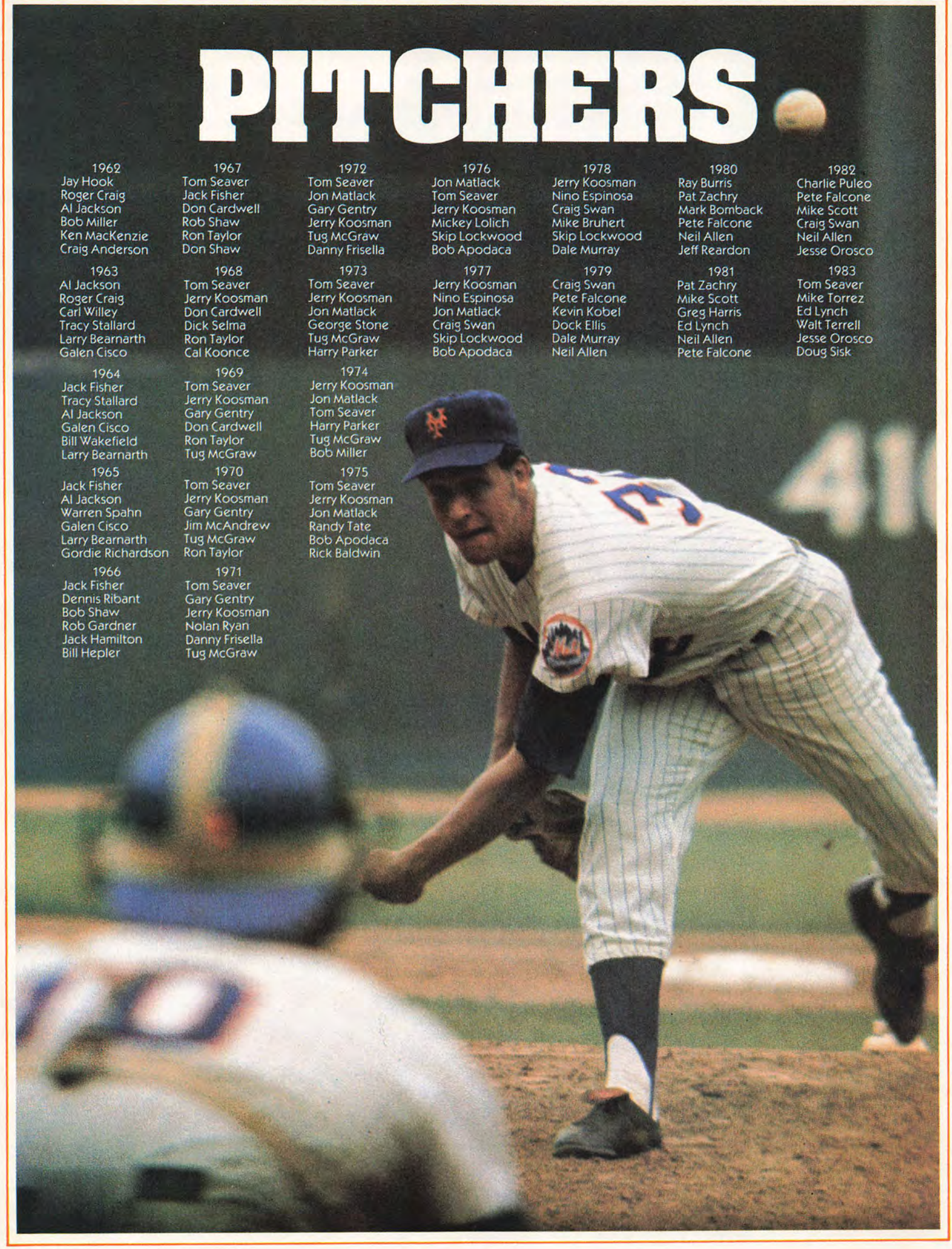
1979
Craig Swan
Pete Falcone
Kevin Kobel
Dock Ellis
Dale Murray
Neil Allen

1980
Ray Burris
Pat Zachry
Mark Bomback
Pete Falcone
Neil Allen
Jeff Reardon

1981
Pat Zachry
Mike Scott
Greg Harris
Ed Lynch
Neil Allen
Pete Falcone

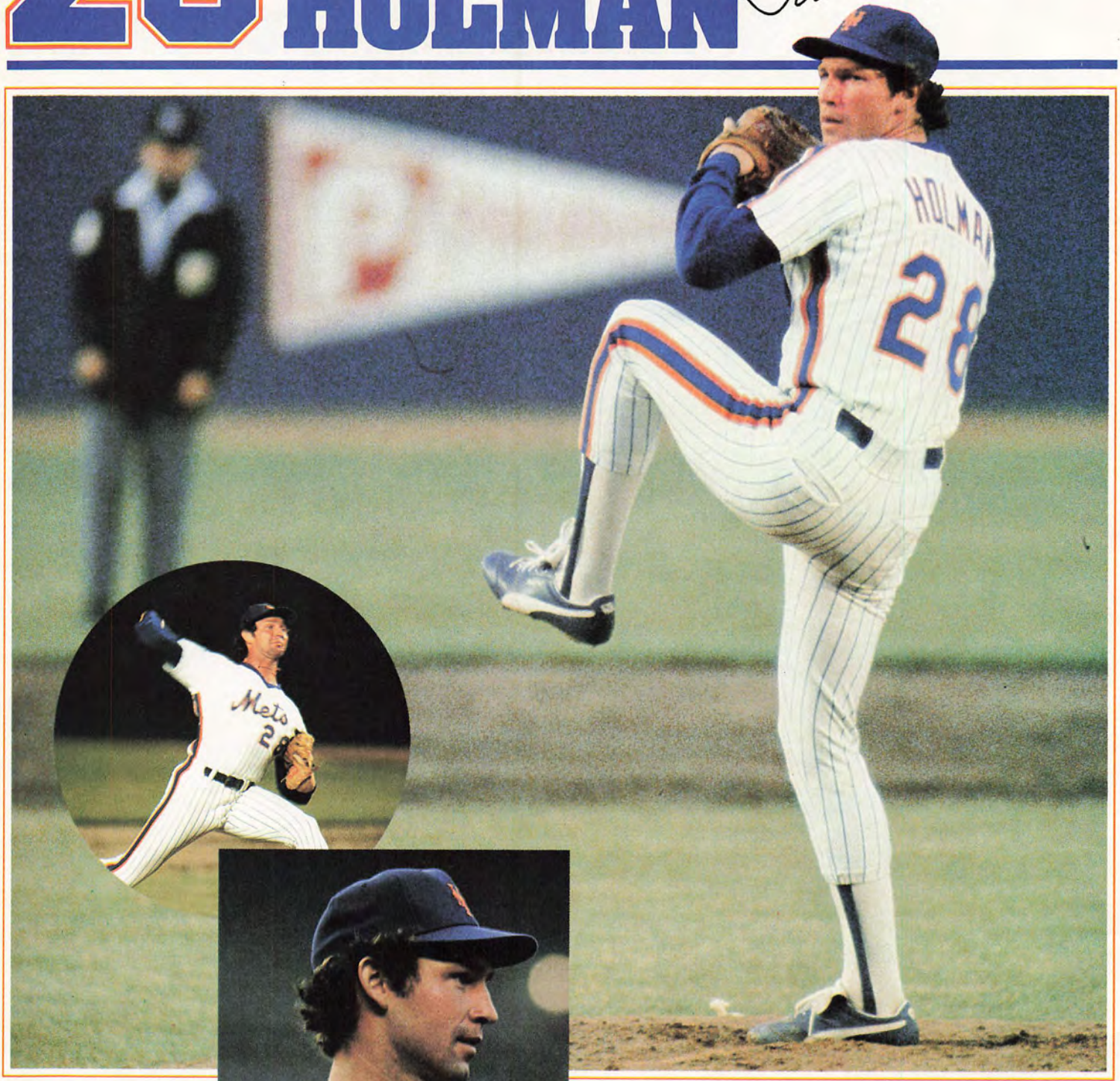
1982
Charlie Puleo
Pete Falcone
Mike Scott
Craig Swan
Neil Allen
Jesse Orosco

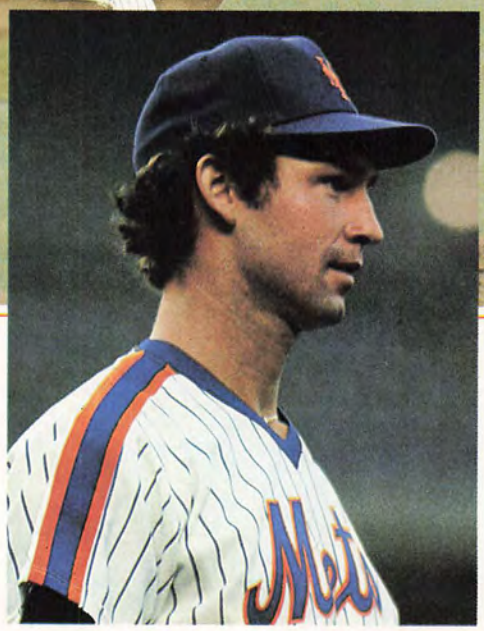
1983
Tom Seaver
Mike Torrez
Ed Lynch
Walt Terrell
Jesse Orosco
Doug Sisk



28 SCOTT HOLMAN

Scott Holman



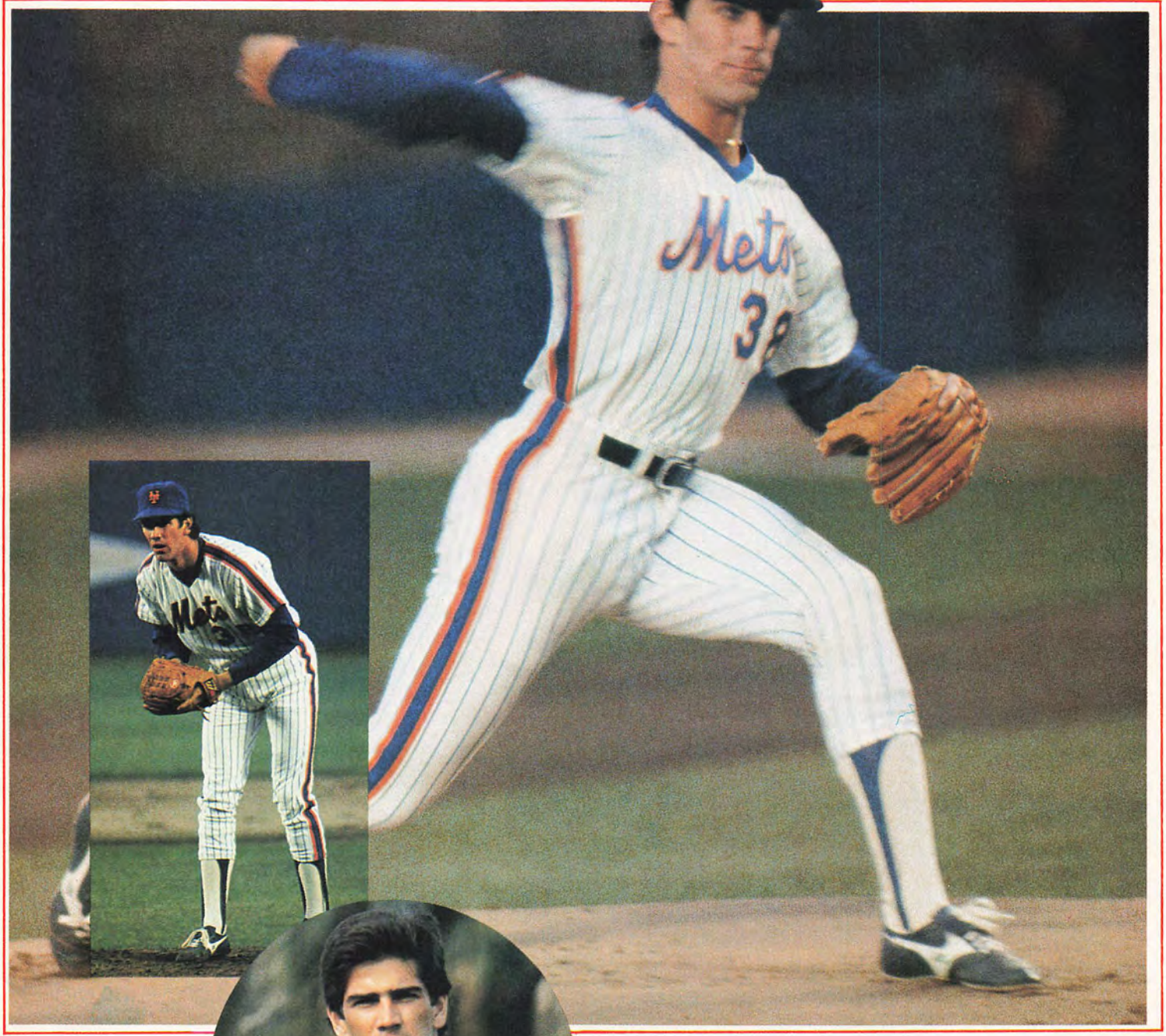


Scott Holman spent the entire 1983 season with the Mets, and saw duty as both a starter, and as a reliever.

In posting a 1-7 record, he was 1-6 with a 4.02 ERA in 10 starts, and 0-1 with a 3.42 ERA in 25 appearances out of the bullpen. His only win of the year came on June 5 at Los Angeles when he allowed two runs in 8⅓ innings in a 4-2 victory over the Dodgers.

Scott, 25, has fully recovered from the shoulder problems that bothered him in '80 and '81, and looks forward to a big year this season.

38 TIM LEARY



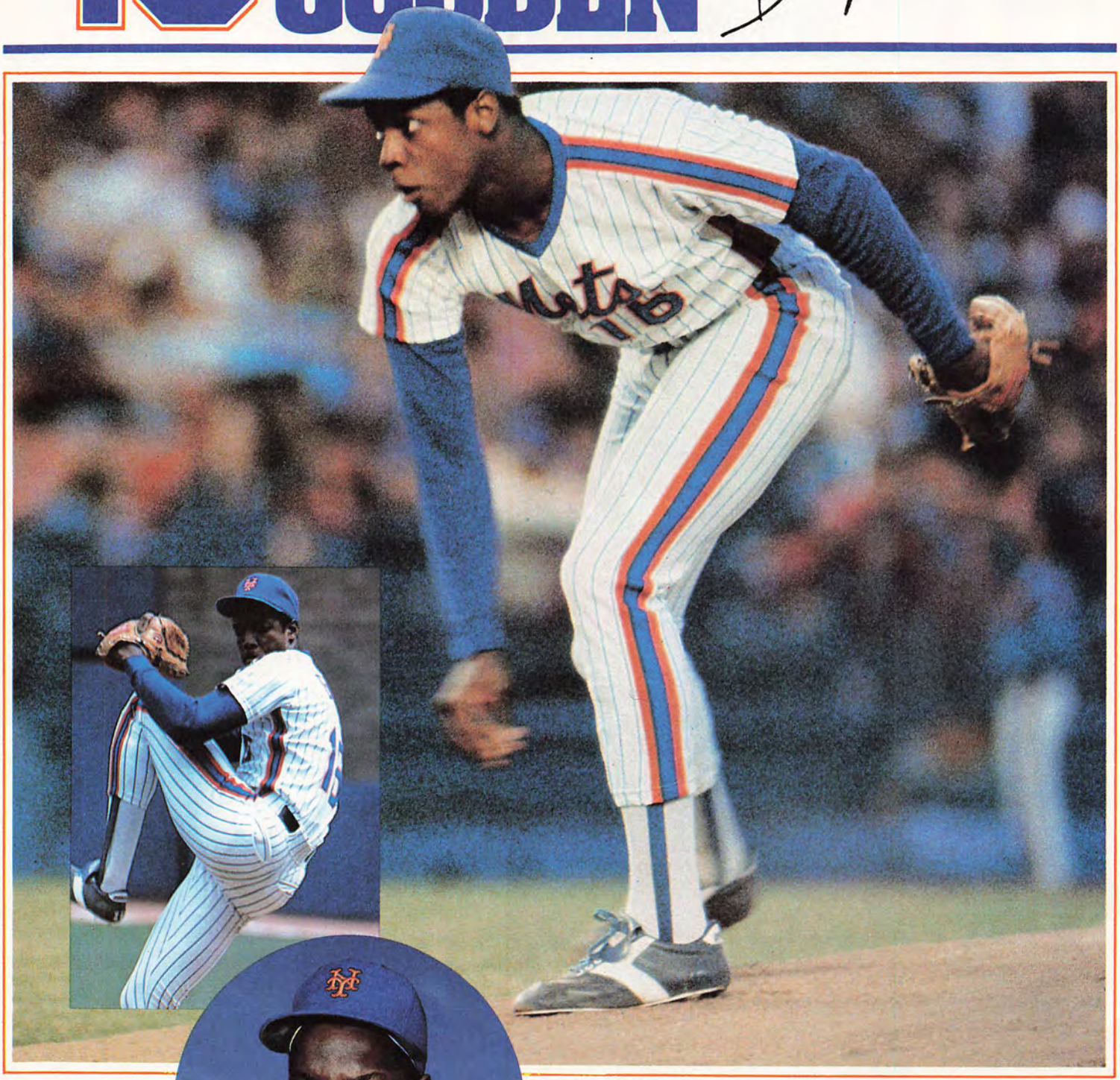
Tim Leary was 8-16 at Tidewater last year, and 1-1 in September with the Mets. Statistically, the year was not the greatest, but the 6-3 right-hander has to be encouraged. After two seasons of injuries, Tim hopes to return to his old form in '84.

"Record-wise, 1983 wasn't too good for me," said the 25-year-old bachelor. "But the main thing was I didn't miss a start and nothing bothered me. Hopefully, my days in the doctor's office are over."

Tim led the Tides with eight complete games, and recorded his first major league win on the final day of the season with a route-going performance against the Expos.

16 DWIGHT GOODEN

Dwight Gooden

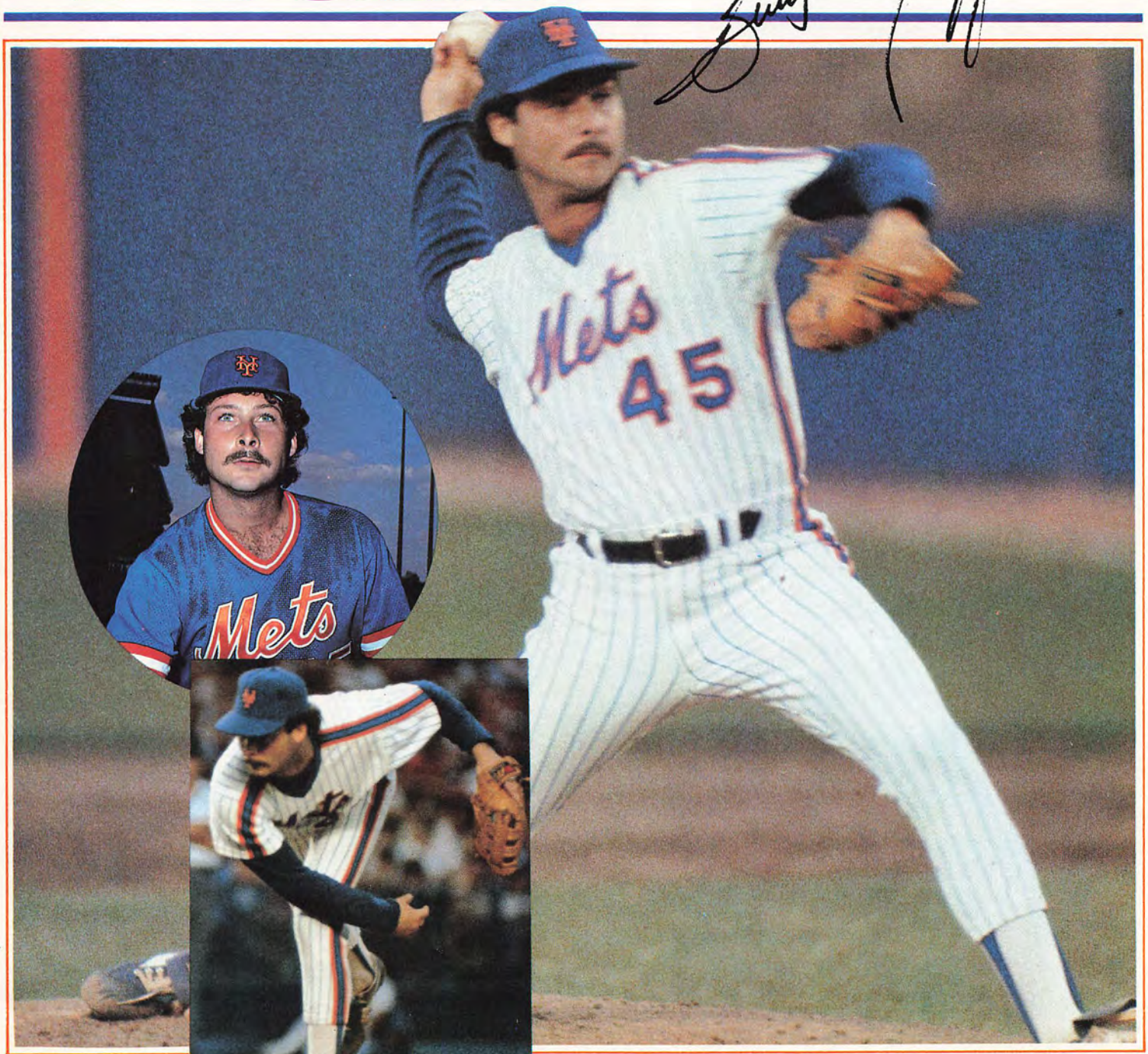


Dwight Gooden turned in one of professional baseball's most outstanding pitching performances in 1983.

Dwight, just 19-years-old and the club's number one pick in the 1982 free agent draft, was 19-4 at Lynchburg (A) with a 2.50 ERA and an incredible 300 strikeouts in 191 innings. At the end of the year the 6-2 righthander was named Minor League Player of the Year by the magazine "Baseball America", as well as Most Valuable Pitcher in the Carolina League.

Dwight was elevated to Tidewater in September and won a pair of games down the stretch for Dave Johnson's Triple-A World Series Champions.

45 BRENT GAFF



When Dave Johnson needed a pitcher for middle relief early in the year, he went right to Tidewater and recalled righthander Brent Gaff.

Brent, who was a starter for the first five seasons of his professional career, was converted to a reliever by Johnson last season at Tidewater. He became the Tides' number one relief pitcher and recorded five saves in the second half of the year.

The 25-year-old righthander recorded his first major league win last year after joining the Mets in late September. He pitched five innings in relief in beating the Expos on October 1 at Shea.

44 RON DARLING

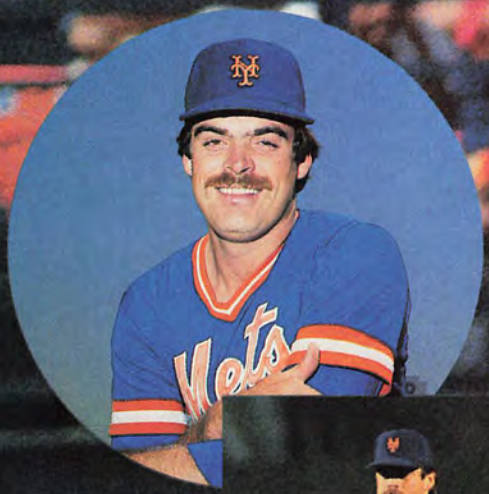
Ron Darling has spent two full seasons at Tidewater since coming to the Mets from the Texas Rangers prior to the 1982 season. The Hawaiian-born righthander plans to spend this summer in New York.

Ron was 10-9 in 27 starts for the Tides last year and was the starting pitcher for the International League All-Stars when they faced the Cleveland Indians in August. He was recalled in September and posted his first major league win by beating the Pirates with a complete game in his final appearance of the season.

Ron, who specialized in Southeast Asian and French history at Yale University, plans to attend Law School in the future. The courtroom can wait for now, however, because his first goal is to establish himself in the big leagues and help the Mets climb the standings in the N.L. East.

49 WALT TERRELL

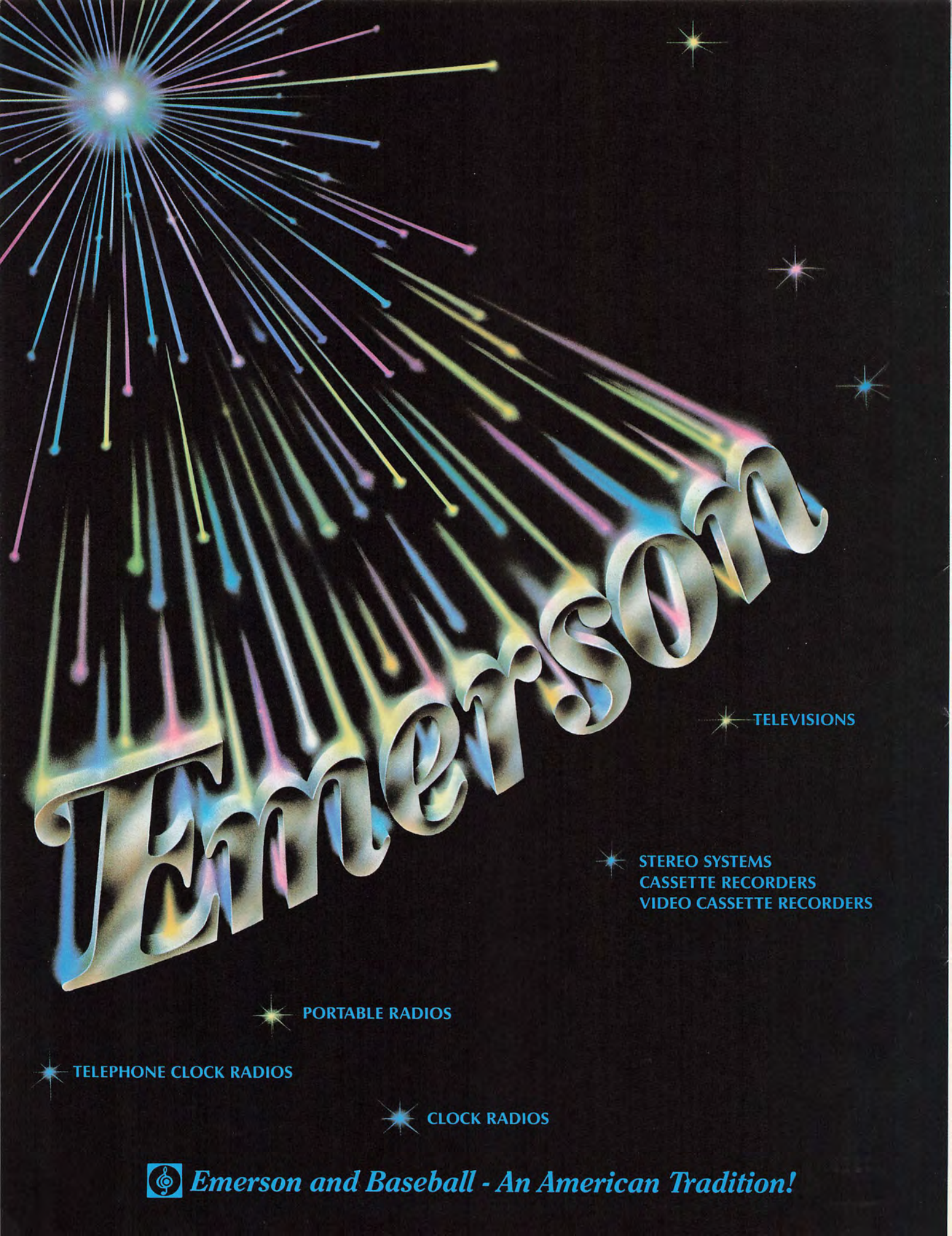
Walt Terrell



Walt Terrell was leading the International League in wins with a 10-1 record at Tidewater, before joining the Mets on June 16. He had won nine straight before the recall, and was named the league's Most Valuable Pitcher for his efforts.

More importantly for Walt, he established himself in the majors after joining the Mets. He was 8-8 with four complete games and a pair of shutouts, but one game will be remembered above all others.

On August 6 at Chicago, the 26-year-old righthander hurled a complete game, and became the first Mets' pitcher to hit two homers in one game as he drove in all four runs in a 4-1 win over the Cubs.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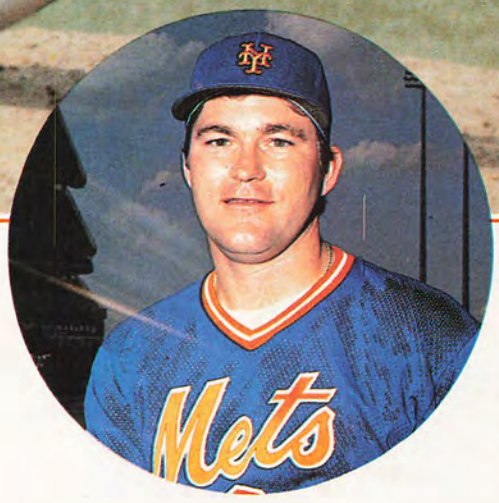
27 BRUCE BERENYI

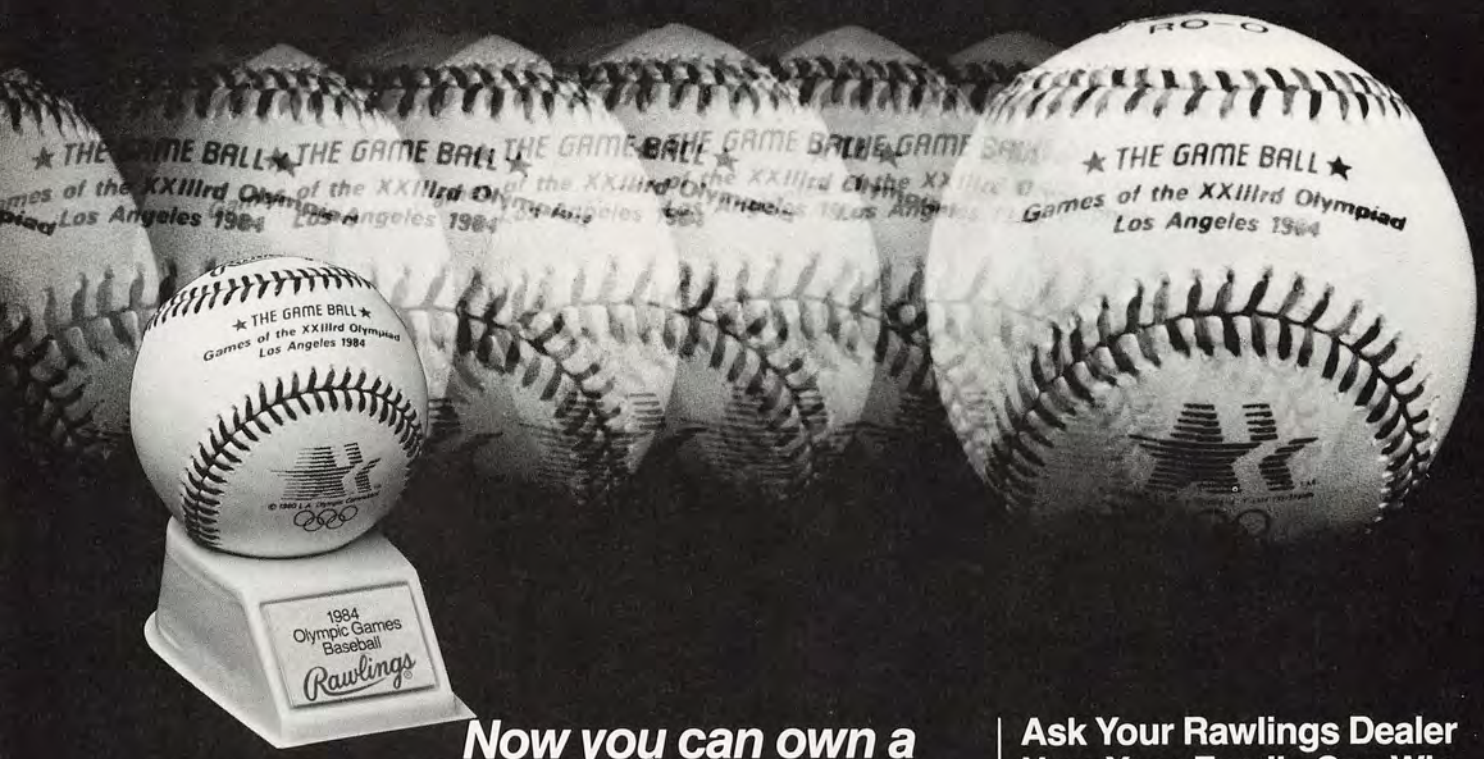


The addition of Bruce Berenyi to the pitching staff gives the Mets one of the strongest starting rotations in the National League.

Bruce won nine games in each of the past two seasons for Cincinnati, years in which the Reds finished last in the Western Division. Among N.L. starters he is one of the stingiest when it comes to allowing home runs. Two years ago he lead the league when he yielded just eight homers, and last year he finished second to Cy Young winner John Denny allowing only nine.

The biggest advantage in acquiring the 29-year-old bachelor is that no longer will he pitch against the Mets. Last season Bruce was 3-0 against New York with a 1.66 ERA.

CATCH PART OF THE 1984 OLYMPICS!



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Teams from four continents will compete in an exhibition baseball tournament at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles (the games will be played in Dodger Stadium). So when the L.A. 1984 Olympic Committee designated a baseball supplier, the logical choice was Rawlings, the official manufacturer of Major League baseballs. And now you can purchase one of the 1984 Olympic Games baseballs at your local Rawlings sporting goods store. Not a miniature, not a replica—but a ball exactly like those designated for the 1984 Olympics. So catch a part of Olympic history at your Rawlings dealer today.

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He has the details and the entry blanks at his Rawlings 1984 Olympic Games baseball display. Some lucky family will win free tickets to a World Series game plus free air fare and accommodations—and that family could be yours! Nothing to buy, but all entries must be postmarked by August 31st, so register right away.

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29 TOM GORMAN

Tom Gorman

Tom Gorman is a valuable man in the Mets' plans this season. He is effective as either a starter or reliever, and only one other lefty on the roster, Jesse Orosco, has more big league experience.

Acquired from Montreal in August 1982 for Joel Youngblood, Tom started last season at Tidewater and was 6-1 in 10 games. He was recalled by the Mets in June and posted a 1-4 record. The win was in relief against the Padres in September.

Tom, a graduate of Gonzaga University, enjoyed his finest pro season in 1981 as a reliever at Memphis. That season he saved 22 games and was named Fireman-of-the-Year in the Southern League.

In 1983 the METS spelled relief

J-E-S-S-E O-R-O-S-C-O

Rolaids also salutes 1983 League Winners

Al Holland
Philadelphia Phillies
National League

Dan Quisenberry
Kansas City Royals
American League

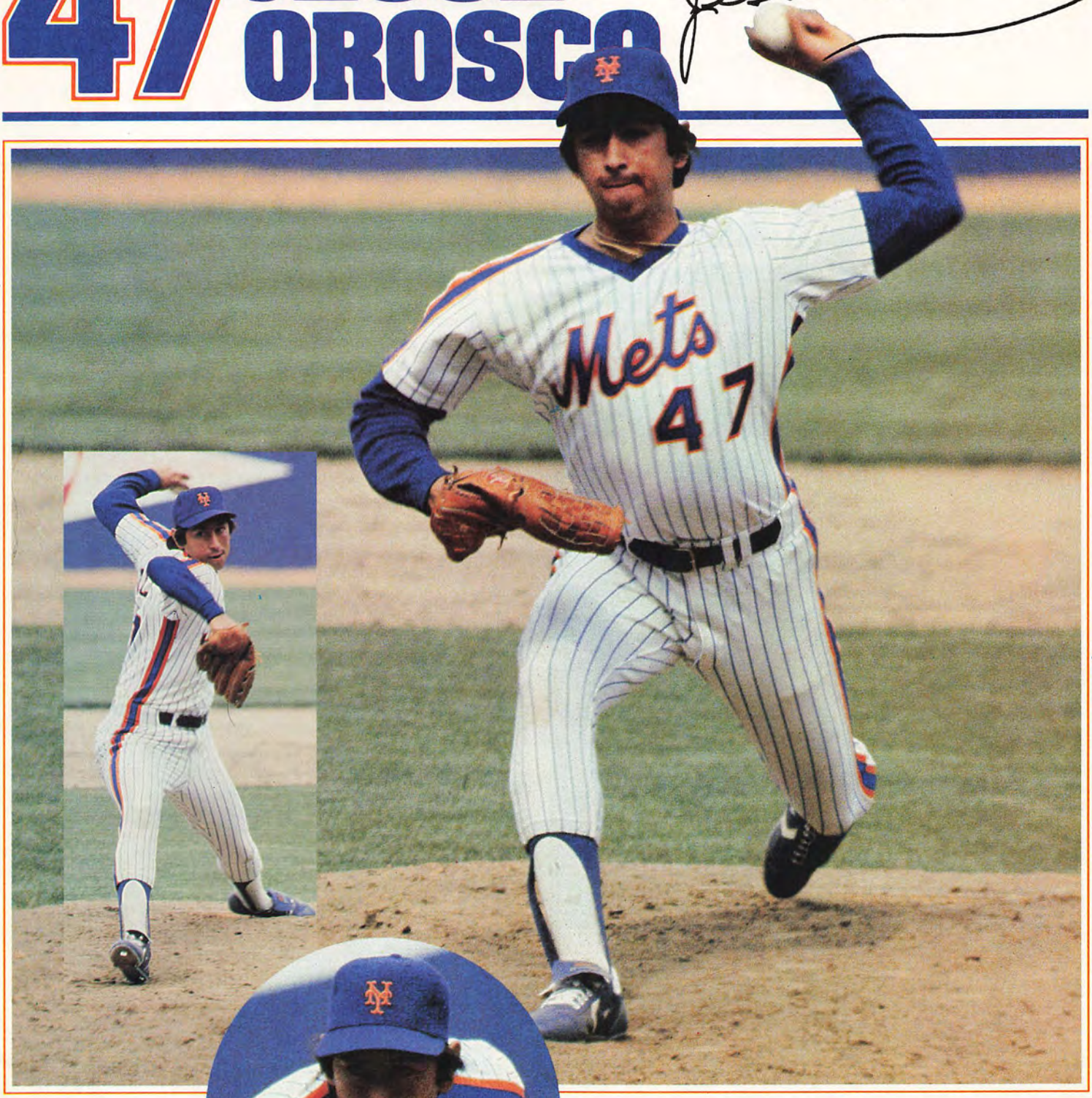
The Rolaids Relief Man Award is sponsored annually by the Warner-Lambert Company in association with Major League Baseball.

The Rolaids Relief Man Award was instituted in 1976. The top reliever in each league is honored, as well as the top "fireman" on each club. Past Mets winners and their records are:

1976	Skip Lockwood	(10-7, 19 saves)
1977	Skip Lockwood	(4-8, 20 saves)
1978	Skip Lockwood	(7-13, 15 saves)
1979	Neil Allen	(6-10, 8 saves)
1980	Neil Allen	(7-10, 22 saves)
1981	Neil Allen	(7- 6, 18 saves)
1982	Neil Allen	(3-7, 19 saves)
1983	Jesse Orosco	(13-7, 17 saves)

47 JESSE OROSCO

Jesse Orosco



Jesse Orosco established himself as one of baseball's premier relief specialists with his performance in 1983.

In 15 games from July 22 through August 24, Jesse compiled a string of 27 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings, and garnered two straight N.L. Player-of-the-Week Awards, as well as Pitcher-of-the-Month honors. He was named to his first All-Star Game, and finished third in the Cy Young voting at the end of the season.

Jesse's 13 wins were the most by a N.L. reliever since 1979, and for his outstanding season, the 26-year-old Californian was named the MHT Mets Player-of-the-Year.

RELIEVERS

DOUG SISK JESSE OROSCO

Dave Johnson had a lot of homework to do this winter. Once named manager, Dave had to evaluate the players on the Mets' 40-man roster, examine the strengths, determine the weaknesses, and devise a course of action to produce a winning ballclub. One subject he didn't have to worry about was relief pitching.

In Jesse Orosco and Doug Sisk the Mets have one of the finest "one-two," "lefty-righty" relief combinations in the National League. The duo combined for 18 wins and 28 saves last season, and they each appeared in over 60 games. A manager can't ask for anymore than that.

Orosco, the club's M.V.P. last season, had possibly the best season ever by a Met reliever. With a 13-7 record, he led the league in relief victories, and broke Tug McGraw's club record (11 in 1971) in the process. In August, Jesse was 5-0 with six saves and allowed just one earned run in 22 2/3 innings (0.40 ERA), earning a pair of Player-of-the-Week awards, as well as Pitcher-of-the-Month honors.

In one stretch Jesse hurled 27 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings, just shy of Jerry Koosman's 1973 club record (31 2/3 innings). To climax his outstanding year, he finished third in the National League Cy Young Award balloting behind the Phils' John Denny and Cincinnati's Mario Soto.

Doug Sisk and his sinker made the jump from Double-A to the majors in 1983. Before he could even get over his surprise at making the team, he recorded his first win pitching three shutout innings in relief of Tom Seaver on Opening Day at Shea before 48,000 fans. He appeared in 66 more games and set the club mark for appearances in one season. Doug finished the year with a 5-4 record and 11 saves, and his excellent 2.24 ERA was helped by the fact that he allowed only one homer all year in 104 innings, tops in the league.

Undoubtedly, the greatest Mets' reliever to date was Tug McGraw. The popular and ebullient lefthander recorded 85 saves in his ten years with the Mets from 1965 through 1974. Tug saved 27 games in 1972, the single season record, and 25 in 1973. The image of Tug pounding his glove on his thigh as he walked to the dugout is etched in every fan's memory, and his 'Ya Gotta Believe' battle cry in '73 has become a fabled part of Mets' history.

Righthander Ron Taylor led the Mets in saves for four straight seasons 1967-70, and his 13 saves in '69 were tops on the World Championship club. He and Tug, in 1970, were the last duo to each record more than 10 saves in one season prior to Orosco and Sisk last year.

In the early years, the bullpen was manned by Larry Bearnarth and Bill Wakefield. Both righthanders, they did most of the relief work on teams that routinely lost 100 games. Bearnarth, fresh from St. John's, pitched in 171 games from 1963-66, and Wakefield appeared in 62 games in '64, a club record for 12 seasons until 1977.

Relief tandems other than Taylor and McGraw, also made their mark in the club's history. The late Danny Frisella saved 21 games in '71-72 to go along with McGraw's 35. Bob Apodaca and Skip Lockwood anchored the bullpen for three seasons–'75, '76, '77–saving 64 games between them. Apodaca, whose career was cut short by an elbow injury in the '78 spring, enjoyed his best season in 1975 when he saved 13 games with a 1.48 ERA in 46 appearances. Lockwood notched 19 saves in '76 and followed with 20 in '77.

Neil Allen emerged as Mets' number one reliever in 1979. An injury to Lockwood forced Neil to the bullpen, and he remained there for three more seasons. He became second on the Mets' career list behind McGraw by saving 69 games over that period. Allen and Jeff Reardon were a formidable duo in 1980 as Reardon won eight games and saved six in 61 appearances.

Any reliever will tell you that talent and confidence go hand-in-hand in determining a relief pitcher's success. McGraw threw a baffling screwball which was hard to hit from either side of the plate, and he always seemed to have that cocky enthusiasm which became his trademark. But early in 1973, he lost both his screwball and his confidence.

"I've been standing on mounds since I was seven years old," Tug said at the time, "but all of a sudden it was like I had never pitched in a game. I just didn't know what I was doing."

Without Tug, the Mets had no chance at winning in the National League. Then manager, Yogi Berra, started him in two games in July with hopes of snapping his slump, and coaches Rube Walker and Joe Pignatano spent some long sessions with the ace reliever. As easily as his effectiveness had deserted him, it all came back, and with his new found 'Ya Gotta Believe' confidence, he won five and saved 12 in a 19 game stretch beginning on August 22, and he led the Mets to the N.L. East and National League titles.

Jesse Orosco certainly experienced growing pains after coming to the Mets in 1979. He was rushed to the majors that first season, and once sent down to the minors, he struggled for three seasons trying to get back to the big leagues. With a "nasty" fastball/curve combination, no one ever doubted Jesse's ability, but Jesse is the first to admit he doubted himself. A combination of things–hard work, George Bamberger's confidence, and the memory of his beloved father who passed away in August 1982–all contributed to a self assurance that surfaced in 1983.

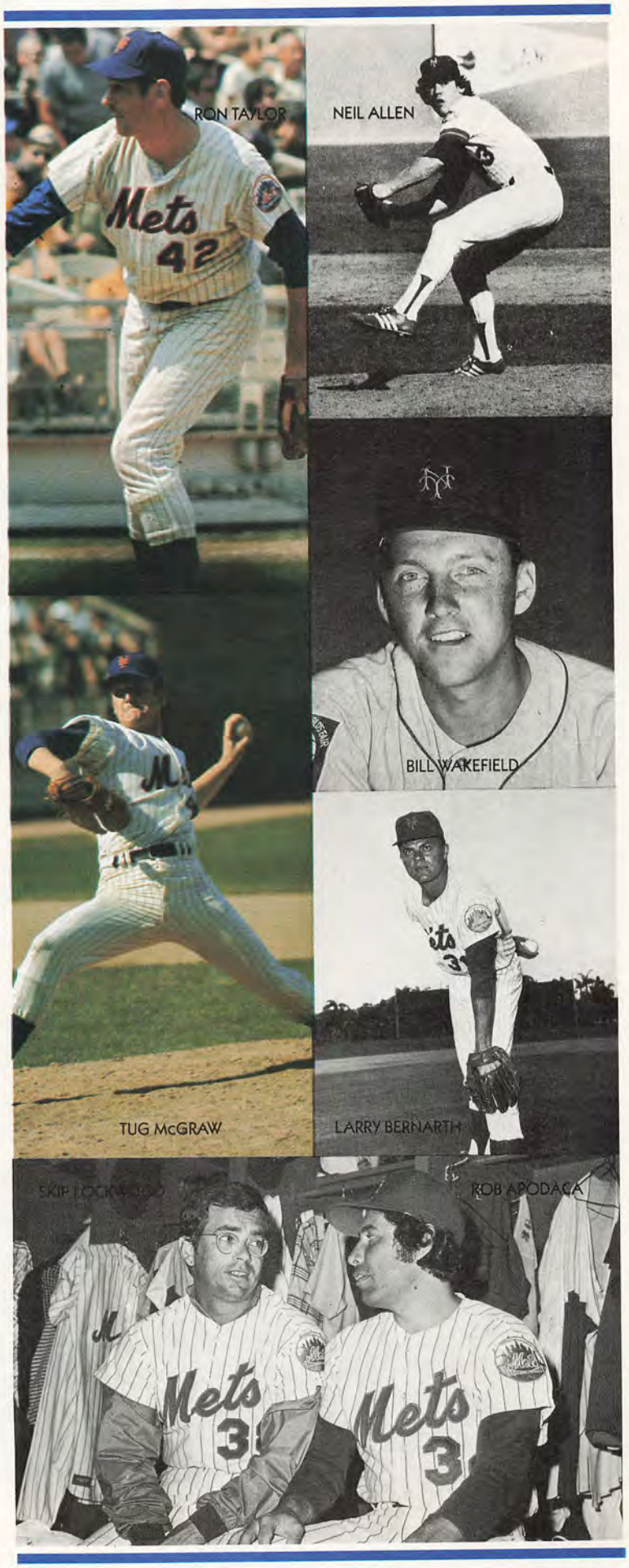
"At one time I would almost be afraid when an Andre Dawson or Dale Murphy would come to the plate. I'd wonder to myself 'What are they going to do to me?'", Jesse said. "Now when they come to the plate, I answer them with eyes that say 'I'm in charge'."

Doug Sisk went through a tough period while in college in 1977 when he ripped tendons in his elbow. He wasn't allowed to throw a baseball for a year, and upon returning to baseball, he wasn't good enough to even get drafted out of Washington State. The Mets signed him as a free agent, and in the low minors, he performed well but admits he just threw the ball straight and hard. Then the sinker arrived.

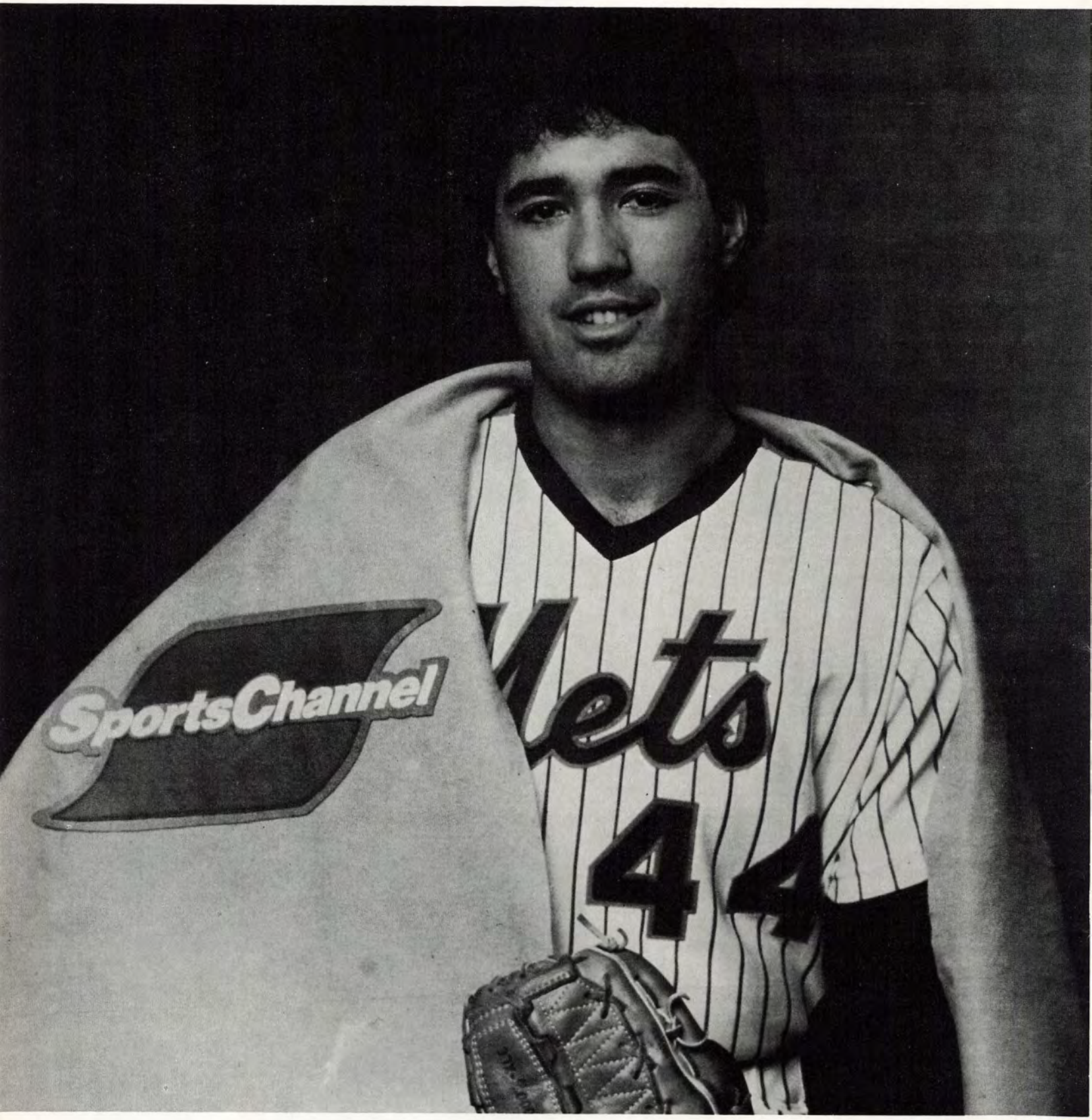
"No one ever taught me the pitch", Doug says. "It just came naturally to me about three years ago. It comes right off the fingers and drops." That pitch hastened his career to the majors, and is the reason he was such a success in his rookie season. As George Bamberger said, "An 89 mph sinker is like a ground ball every time."

The emergence of the relief pitcher as such an important factor in baseball is well documented. Every team that is successful seems to have that pitcher in the bullpen that is relied upon in virtually every game.

As the Mets look to improve in '84 and the years to follow, it's good knowing that they have two of the more talented relievers in the game today.



Hey Ron Darling, We've got you covered.



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The Home of the Home Teams

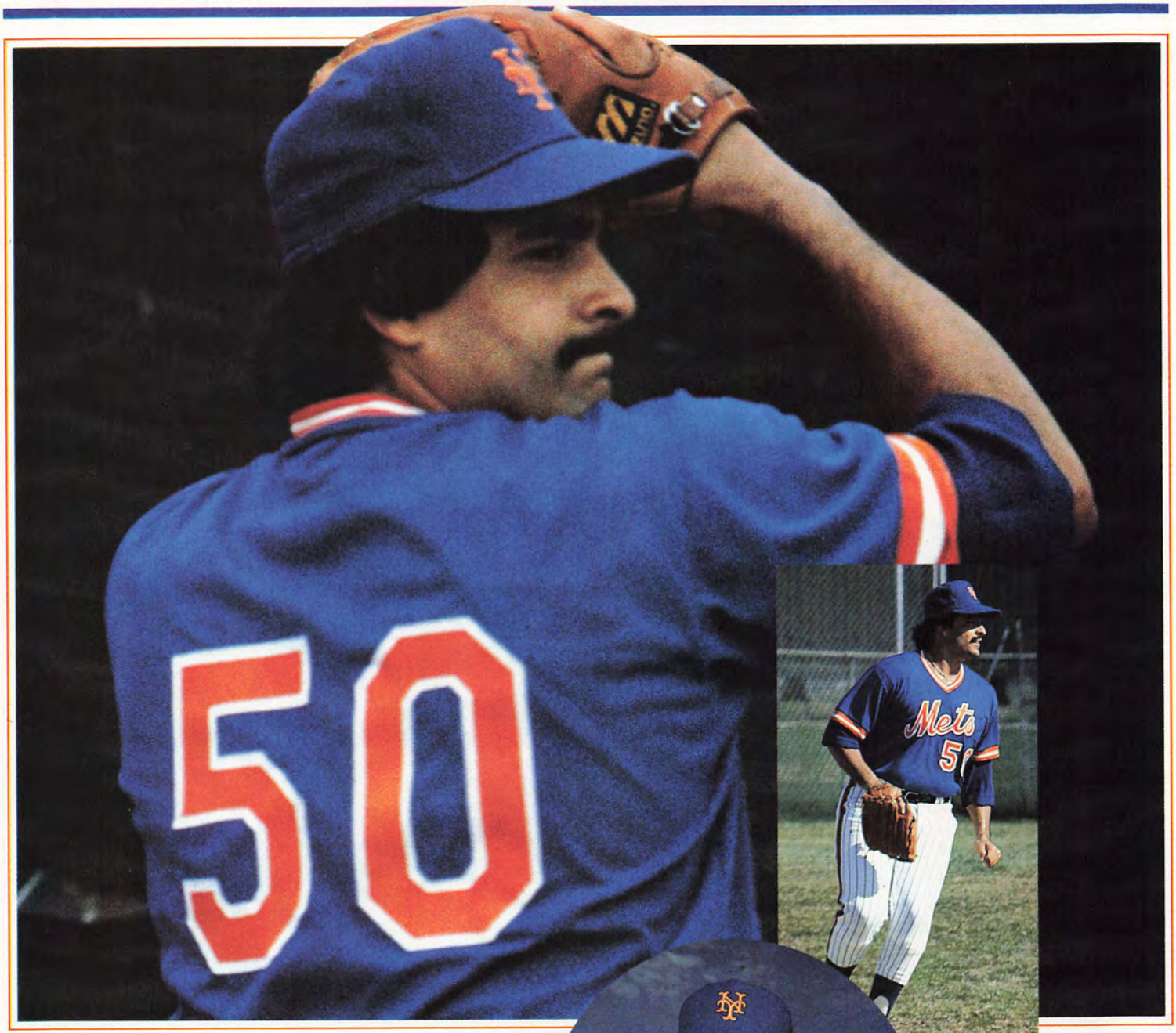
36 ED LYNCH

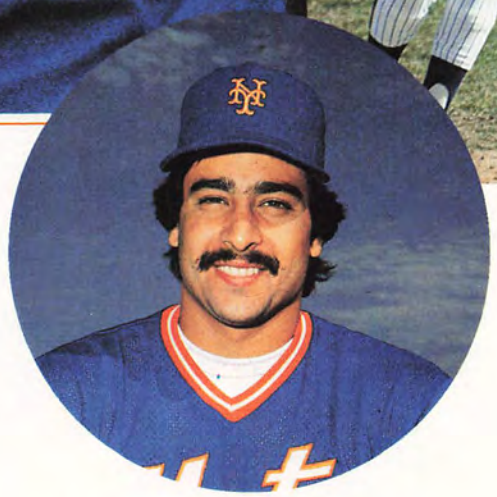
Ed Lynch enjoyed his best season in the majors in 1983, establishing career highs in wins, starts, and innings pitched.

Ed posted a 10-10 record and the Mets were 15-12 in games he started. One of the most reliable starters on the staff, the 6-5 righthander averaged better than six innings per start, and was sixth among the league's top control pitchers allowing just 2.1 walks per nine innings.

Despite just two full seasons in the big leagues, manager Dave Johnson will look upon Ed as a dependable veteran on a staff stocked with young, promising pitchers.

50 SID FERNANDEZ





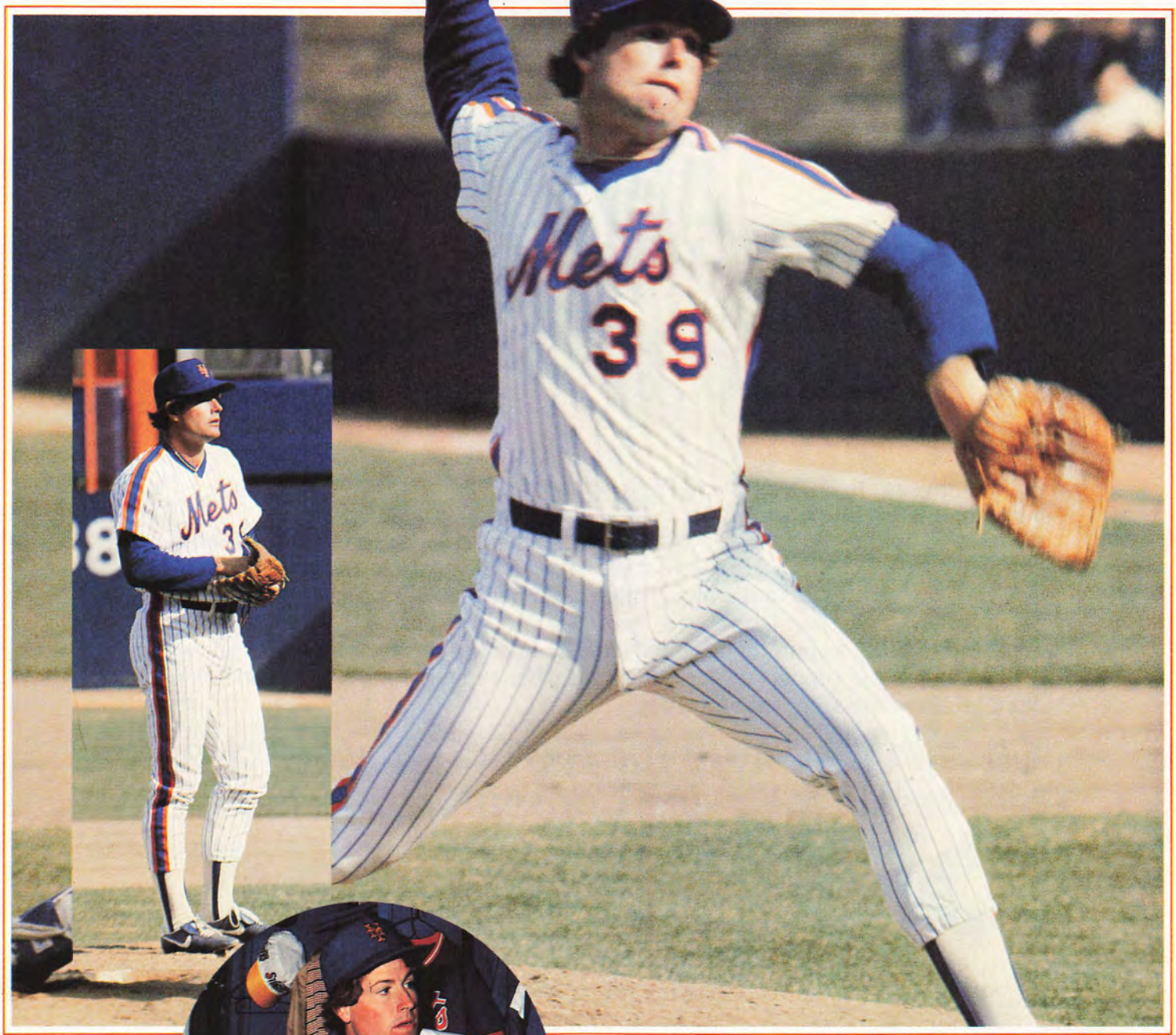
The Mets obtained one of baseball's top pitching prospects when they acquired lefthander Sid Fernandez from the Dodgers for Bob Bailor and Carlos Diaz.

Sid, the Texas League's Most Valuable Pitcher in 1983, has been the dominant pitcher at each minor league level where he's pitched. He was 13-4 at San Antonio last year with 209 strikeouts in 153 innings. In 1982 at Vero Beach (A), Sid was 8-1 and tossed a pair of no-hitters, a one-hitter, a two-hitter and a three-hitter in five of the eight wins.

Coming to the Mets has already been noteworthy for Sid. When he visited New York to meet the media in January, the 21-year-old Hawaiian saw snow for the first time in his life.

39 DOUG SISK

Doug Sisk



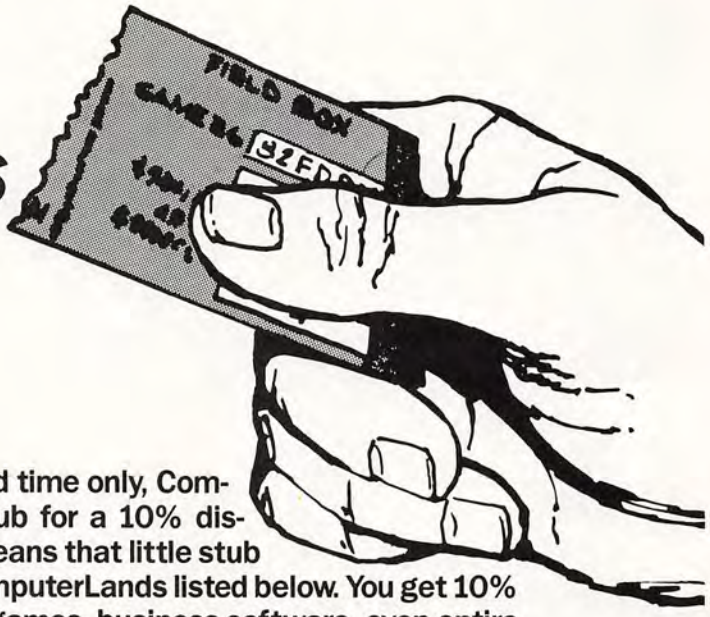
Most of the time when the phone rang in the Mets' bullpen last year, it was for Doug Sisk. Doug made 67 trips to the mound as a rookie setting a club record previously held by Skip Lockwood.

Doug, with a 5-4 record, 2.24 ERA, and 11 saves, made quite an impression on opposing hitters, and especially "power" hitters. That's because he allowed just one homer all season, 104 1/3 innings, posting the best ratio in the league when you consider homers allowed per batters faced.

Doug, a 26-year-old bachelor, makes his home in Tacoma, Washington. In high school he was named to the All-American rifle team and was considered a candidate for the 1976 Olympic Rifle Team.

M.V.P.

"Most Valuable Part"



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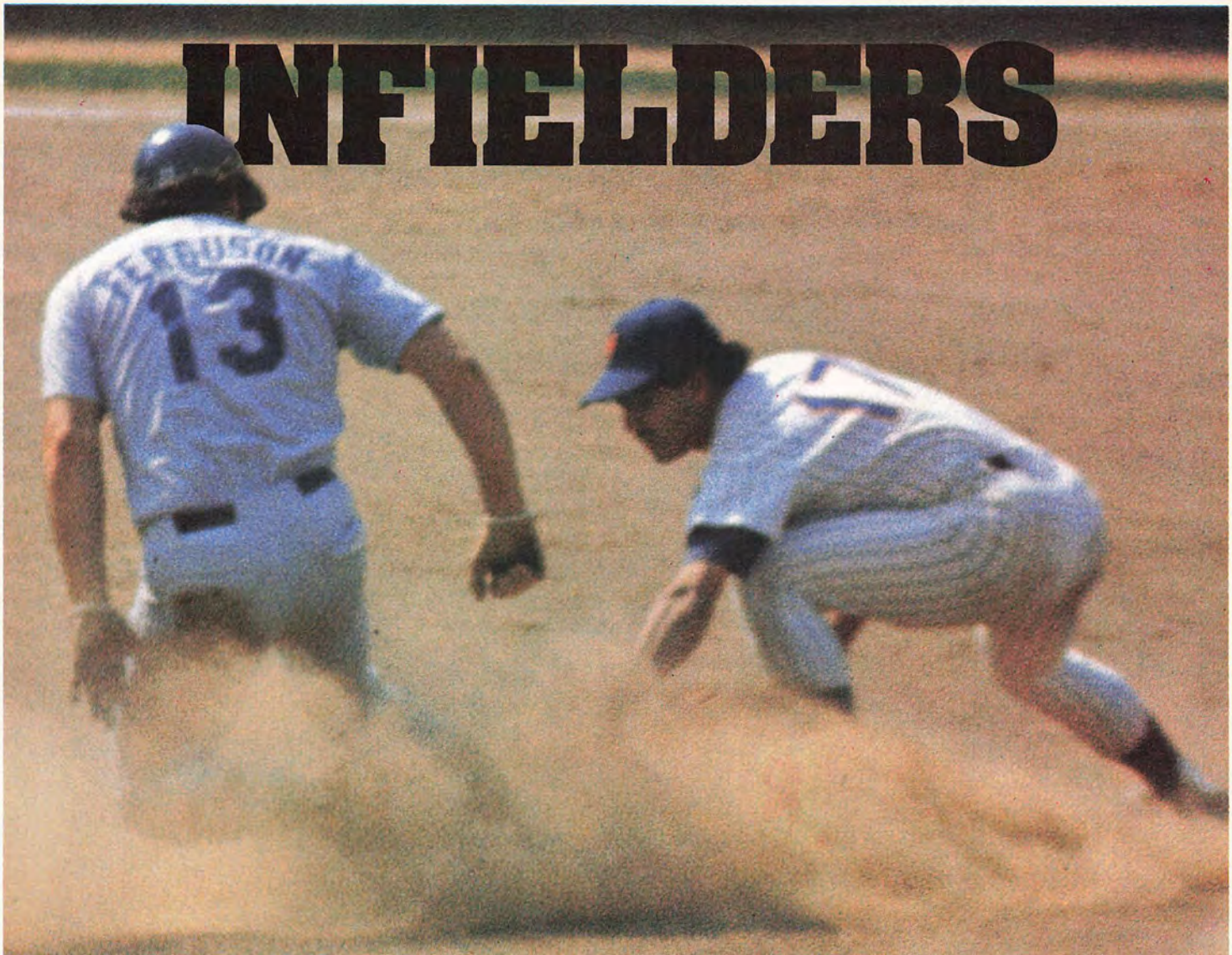

1962
1B Marv Throneberry
2B Charlie Neal
3B Felix Mantilla
SS Elio Chacon

1963
1B Tim Harkness
2B Ron Hunt
3B Charlie Neal
SS Al Moran

1964
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Ron Hunt
3B Charley Smith
SS Roy McMillan

1965
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Chuck Hiller
3B Charley Smith
SS Roy McMillan

1966
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Ron Hunt
3B Ken Boyer
SS Ed Bressoud

1967
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Jerry Buchek
3B Ed Charles
SS Bud Harrelson

1968
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Ken Boswell
3B Ed Charles
SS Bud Harrelson

1969
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Ken Boswell
3B Wayne Garrett
SS Bud Harrelson

1970
1B Donn Clendenon
2B Ken Boswell
3B Joe Foy
SS Bud Harrelson

1971
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Ken Boswell
3B Bob Aspromonte
SS Bud Harrelson

1972
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Ken Boswell
3B Jim Fregosi
SS Bud Harrelson

1973
1B John Milner
2B Felix Millan
3B Wayne Garrett
SS Bud Harrelson

1974
1B John Milner
2B Felix Millan
3B Wayne Garrett
SS Bud Harrelson

1975
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Felix Millan
3B Wayne Garrett
SS Mike Phillips

1976
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Felix Millan
3B Roy Staiger
SS Bud Harrelson

1977
1B Ed Kranepool
2B Doug Flynn
3B Len Randle
SS Bud Harrelson

1978
1B Willie Montanez
2B Doug Flynn
3B Len Randle
SS Tim Foli

1979
1B Willie Montanez
2B Doug Flynn
3B Richie Hebner
SS Frank Taveras

1980
1B Lee Mazzilli
2B Doug Flynn
3B Elliott Maddox
SS Frank Taveras

1981
1B Dave Kingman
2B Doug Flynn
3B Hubie Brooks
SS Frank Taveras

1982
1B Dave Kingman
2B Wally Backman
3B Hubie Brooks
SS Ron Gardenhire

1983
1B Keith Hernandez
2B Brian Giles
3B Hubie Brooks
SS Jose Oquendo

6 WALLY BACKMAN

Wally Backman enjoyed a fine season in 1983, but he wishes it were for the Mets, not Tidewater. Wally started the season in New York, but was optioned to the Tides in May.

His misfortune in spending most of the year at Triple-A may be a "blessing in disguise" this season. That's because his .316 season as the Tides' second-baseman was seen every day by then manager Davey Johnson, now skipper of the Mets.

On the year, Wally led Tidewater in batting and stolen bases (37); and in post-season play, he hit .391 in the International League playoffs before leading the Tides to the Little World Series Championship.

19 RON GARDENHIRE

Ron Gardenhire played most of his ball at Tidewater in 1983, and was one of the main reasons the Tides walked away with the International League and Triple-A World Series titles.

He batted second in the Tides' batting order, and hit .287 in 102 games. Ron saved the best for last and, in 13 post-season games, hit three homers and drove in 12 runs.

Ron, 26-years-old and a graduate of the University of Texas, spent the entire 1982 season with the Mets and hit .240 in 141 games. He's determined to return to New York this season and earn a spot in the Mets' middle infield.

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- ☐ Minnesota
- ☐ New York Yankees
- ☐ Oakland
- ☐ Seattle
- ☐ Texas
- ☐ Toronto

NATIONAL LEAGUE

- ☐ Atlanta
- ☐ Chicago Cubs
- ☐ Cincinnati
- ☐ Houston
- ☐ Los Angeles
- ☐ Montreal
- ☐ New York Mets
- ☐ Philadelphia
- ☐ Pittsburgh
- ☐ St. Louis
- ☐ San Diego
- ☐ San Francisco

White Italian marble Pen Set with two Sheaffer pens, clear baseball holder and personally engraved silver nameplate. *To order indicate name to be engraved below.*

Please send me a total of _____ pen set(s) at $50.00 each. Postage and handling is included.

Indicate name to be engraved _____

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of $_____

Name _____

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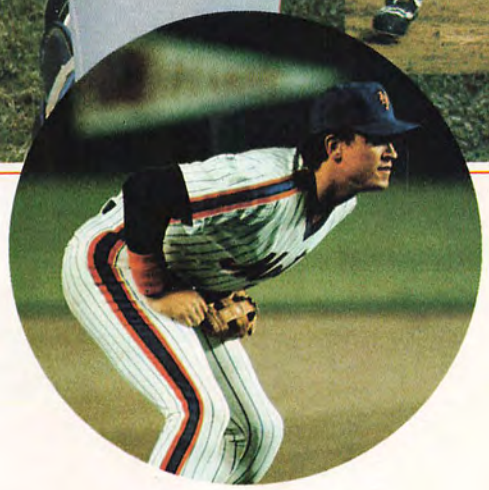
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

13 CLINT HURDLE



Clint Hurdle was an outfielder for the better part of his baseball career, but last year was moved to third base by Dave Johnson at Tidewater. He played the position well, and hit .285 with 22 homers and 105 RBI's earning the Doubleday Award as the team's MVP.

This year, new Mets' manager Dave Johnson asked Clint to try his hand at catching. Clint accepted the challenge, and by spring's end was quite capable behind the plate, and ready to fill-in if needed.

Clint enjoyed some fine seasons at Kansas City before going to the Reds in 1982. He hit .264 with seven homers in 1978, and had his best year in '80 hitting .294 with 10 homers and 60 RBI's.

1984 Mets
Ticket and Seating Information

In person

Ticket Office, **Shea Stadium**, 126th Street and Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing, New York 11368 (near Gate D). Opens on or about March 1. Monday through Friday 8:00 to 6:00, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays 9:00 to 5:00. Phone (212) 507-TIXX. **Ticketron.** All outlets. Phone: (212) 977-9020.

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Available for all occasions from Mets Ticket Manager, Shea Stadium, Flushing, New York 11368. Phone: (212) 507-TIXX.

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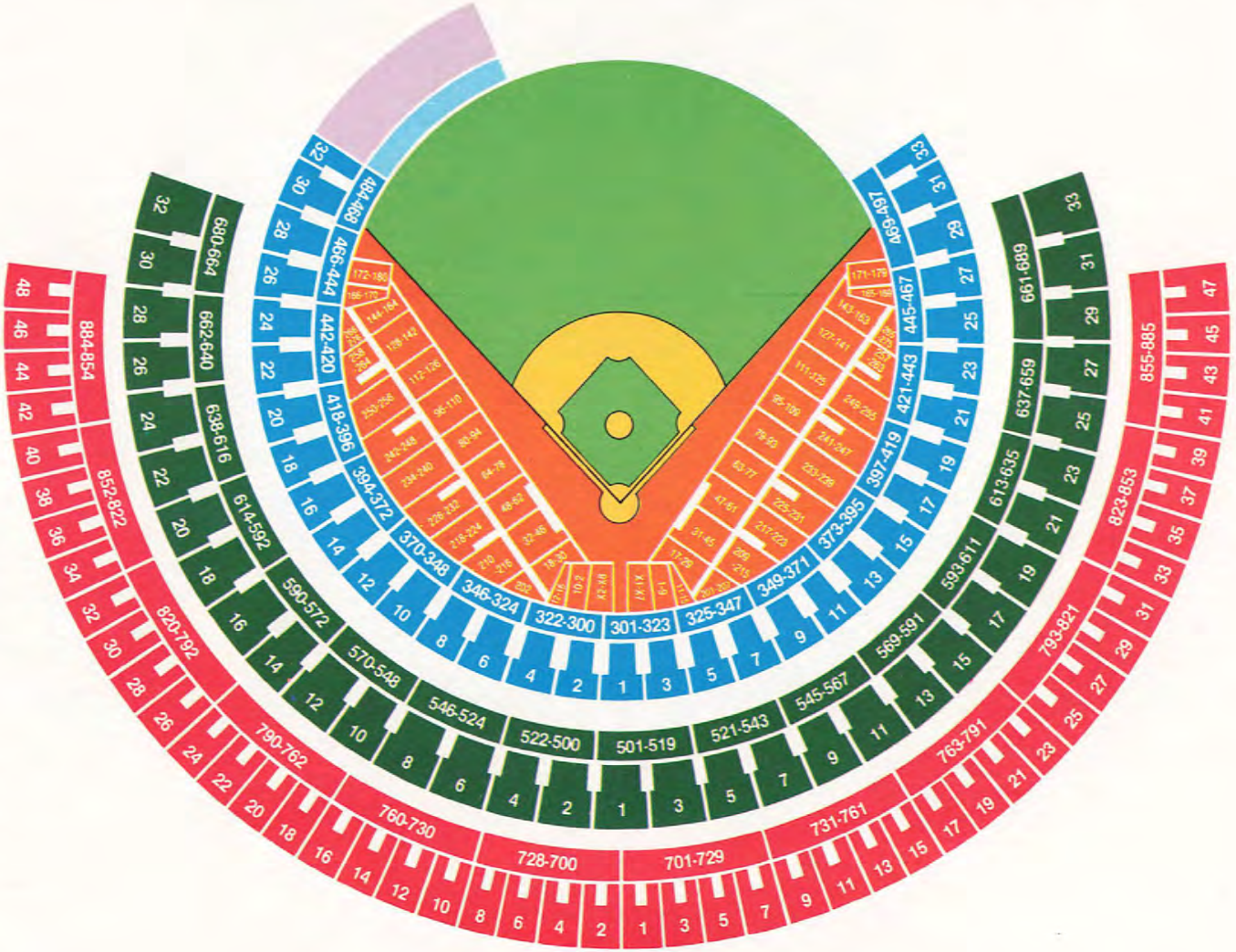
General Admission (Day of Game Only) (Including N.Y. State Sales Tax)	3.00

By mail

Specify date of game or games and the NUMBER and PRICE of tickets desired. Make a check or money order payable to **NEW YORK METS.** Please do not send cash or stamps.) Add **$1.00** postage and handling charges. Mail to Mets Ticket Dept., Shea Stadium, Flushing, N.Y. 11368. You may ORDER NOW BY MAIL for any Mets home game as far in advance as you like. Tickets will be mailed well in advance of the games specified.

TIME OF GAMES—1984

Day Game	1:35
Doubleheader	1:05
TwiNight	5:35
Night Game	7:35
except Friday	8:05



The New York Mets, in just 22 seasons, have nonetheless made an indelible mark on baseball history. However, the unique impact of the Mets is not confined to won-loss records, a pair of pennants and a World Championship; but it is just as much a product resulting from a unique affection held by the fans for an 'amazin' collection of personalities who have performed at the Polo Grounds and Shea Stadium.

A team of four baseball people look at ten of those characters who have contributed to that special love affair. Ralph Kiner writes about the early Mets, Marv Throneberry, Rod Kanehl, Choo Choo Coleman, and adds his thoughts on Tug McGraw. Roger Kahn uses his baseball expertise to describe Casey Stengel, Jimmy Piersall, and George Theodore, while Sparky Anderson takes a different look at Yogi Berra. Bowie Kuhn, Baseball Commissioner since 1969, relates his memories of Ron Swoboda and Jerry Koosman.

They are ten memorable Mets; ten ballplayers who have touched the fans of New York in their own unforgettable way.

Sparky Anderson
Sparky Anderson is one of baseball's most successful managers. His 14-year record of 1,238 wins and 912 losses (.576) is unsurpassed by active managers, and ranks ninth in major league history for those with at least 10 years experience. His total wins is second among active managers only to Ralph Houk. Before joining the Tigers in 1979, Sparky managed the Cincinnati Reds from 1970 to 1978. During that period the Reds finished first or second in eight of the nine seasons and won four pennants and two World Championships. He was twice named N.L. Manager of the Year.

Roger Kahn
Roger Kahn is a distinguished writer who is best known in baseball circles for his widely acclaimed book about the Brooklyn Dodgers, *The Boys of Summer*. Roger was born in Brooklyn and educated at the Froebel Academy and N.Y. University. As a journalist, he covered the Dodgers for the *Herald Tribune*, and later was sports editor of *Newsweek* and *The Saturday Evening Post*. He has written columns for *Esquire* and *Time* magazines, and is a contributing writer for many magazines and newspapers. Roger is currently writing his ninth book, a chronicle describing his 1983 summer as President of the Utica Blue Sox, a Class-A farm team.

Ralph Kiner
Ralph Kiner begins his 23rd season as a Mets' announcer. Ralph, inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1975, hit 369 home runs in a ten-year career with the Pirates, Cubs, and Indians. He led the National League in homers for seven straight seasons from 1946 through 1952, twice hitting more than 50 homers in a season. Ralph hosts the Mets post-game show, aptly title Kiner's Korner, which follows every televised game at Shea.

Bowie Kuhn
Bowie Kuhn enters his fifteenth, and final, season as the Commissioner of Baseball. Mr. Kuhn has guided baseball through a period of change and challenge with integrity and vision unsurpassed in the game's top office. He leaves the sport at its peak of popularity as evidenced by attendance records in ten of the previous fourteen years of his administration. As a youngster, Mr. Kuhn was a Washington Senators' fan and even served as the scoreboard boy at the old Griffith Stadium. Following his graduation from Virginia Law School, he joined the firm of Willkie, Farr & Gallagher, and later become an attorney for the National League. He was appointed baseball's fifth Commissioner in 1969.

ROD KANEHL

by Ralph Kiner

How did Rod Kanehl become an original Met in 1962? Was it because of his hitting, fielding, throwing or running? Not really.

We drafted "Hot Rod" from the Yankees' organization because Casey Stengel never forgot how he climbed over a fence to rescue a ball from going into a lake.

It happened while Rod was still in the Yankees' system and the old professor was the boss of the Bronx. A player hit a homer in an intra-squad game and Hot Rod dashed through a hole in the fence and ran almost to the edge of a lake to get the ball and save $3.00. Casey always remembered that hustling play and when the opportunity came, we selected him in the expansion draft.

Rod, nicknamed "Hot Rod" because of his dashing and spirited play, immediately became a favorite at the old Polo Grounds. The fans didn't care that he hit around .240. All they knew was that Rod Kanehl always gave 110% every second that he was on the field.

In fact, he was the subject of the very first banner ever displayed at the Polo Grounds. The sign simply said, "We love the Mets and Rod Kanehl".

Casey just loved his drive and determination. Rod is one of the most versatile performers in Mets history, as he played every position except pitcher and catcher.

Rod holds one distinction that I'll bet plenty of fans have forgotten. On July 6, 1962, he hit the first grand slam homer in Mets' history...A blast against St. Louis' Bobby Shantz. I'll never forget the picture of Rod receiving 50,000 King Korn Trading Stamps for the slam.

As much as the fans loved Rod, Rod loved the City. He was a small town kid from Wichita, Kansas, and the lights of Broadway were new and exciting to him. When he came to us in 1962, he made a pledge that he would find out as much as he possibly could about New York City. So he decided to ride every subway line in New York. It was nothing for him to spend five and six hours on the trains before a night game. We used to call him "The Mole" for his infatuation with the subways. He put in enough hours on the trains to become an honorary conductor.

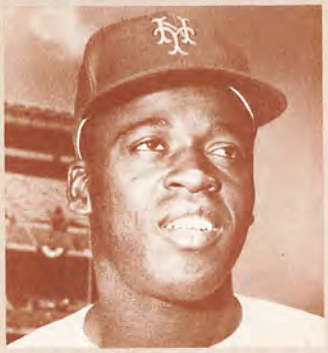
One time old Rod gave us quite a scare. He had a habit of going to the back of the bus and sleeping during our trips. On one particular trip, Rod fell asleep and after we had all gotten off the bus and into our hotel, it wasn't until a couple of hours later that we realized Rod wasn't there. The next morning, he walked into the lobby and told Roger Craig he had spent the night sleeping in the bus depot.

I think that among all the original Mets, Rod was Casey's personal favorite. No question. One night, we were taking infield practice at the old Busch Stadium in St. Louis. Casey meanwhile was holding court with the writers behind first base. Suddenly, Rod, who was at shortstop, wings a throw that sails over the first baseman's head and hits Casey on the leg. Without missing a beat, the old professor said "We can start the game now. My infielders have commenced throwing lousy". But that was said more out of love for Rod than anything else.

Rod left the Mets in 1964 and never played in the majors again. He still managed to grab the headlines, though, even when he hung up his uniform.

It was at an Oldtimer's Day game in the late 1960's. I was standing there with Rod and the rest of the Oldtimers' when he was introduced. Here comes Rod out of the dugout with a Diamond Club girl on each arm. The girls were wearing those old fashioned long hoop skirts for the day. As they were walking out, Rod suddenly stepped on the bottom of one of the girls' dresses and the whole thing came down around her ankles.

That photo made all the front pages of practically every newspaper in the country. That's the Rod Kanehl I'll always remember—he always found a way to make things happen.



CHOO CHOO COLEMAN

by Ralph Kiner

Choo Choo Coleman will always have a place close to my heart. I have been broadcasting Mets' games on television for 23 straight years.

During that time, I have done thousands of interviews and, naturally, some were better than others. However, no interview was ever as short as the one I did with Choo Choo back in 1962.

Choo Choo, an original Met, came to us as a catcher from the Phillies in the expansion draft. Casey thought he was going to be another Yogi Berra. Unfortunately, that never happened.

Choo Choo just never liked to talk. All he used to say was "Hiya Bub" and that was it. Well, the players were after me to interview him on Kiner's Korner. I took up the challenge.

I put him on with Roger Craig. I opened the show with what I thought would be a great question. I asked, "Choo Choo, how did you get your nickname?" I thought he would respond by saying something like "My father was a conductor" or "I liked trains as a kid," but instead, all he said to me was "I don't know."

I knew I was in trouble, but I decided to come back with another question. I said "Choo Choo, what's your wife's name and what's she like?" This time his reply was "Her name is Mrs. Coleman and she likes me, Bub."

That was the last time I interviewed Choo Choo.

Choo Choo never really had a good memory. In 1962, he roomed with Charlie Neal the entire season. In spring training of 1963, a lot of the players got together and bet Charlie that Choo Choo wouldn't remember his name. We brought Choo Choo over and Charlie asked him if he knew who he was. Choo Choo said, "Sure, I do. You're number 4."

He was better with numbers than names.

One time in a game against the Pirates, Dick Stuart slid home and missed the plate. The only trouble was, Choo Choo didn't tag him, either. Choo Choo went into the Pirates' dugout looking for Stuart to tag him. He couldn't remember his face or name, but he remembered his number and finally tagged him out.

Choo Choo actually began his career with the Dodgers and was involved in one of the strangest trades in the history of baseball.

He was traded to the Phillies and one of the things the Dodgers got back in the deal was an old bus with no wheels.

Casey loved him, though. He loved his hustle and his quickness. Casey always used to say that Choo Choo was the quickest catcher in the league going after passed balls.

The writers and announcers loved to watch him catch, too. Every time he walked out to the pitcher's mound, we were always on our feet wondering what he could possibly say besides, "Hiya, Bub, what're you doing?"

Choo Choo, who was from Orlando, Florida, painted highway signs during the off-season. He also painted the signs at the old Al Lang Stadium in St. Petersburg. Every time we were on a bus trip and we passed a sign, Choo Choo would yell out, "I painted that one!"

Then there's the famous story of how Choo Choo directed one of our early WOR broadcasts in 1962. Someone from Channel 9 in New York called the Mets' locker room in Huggins-Stengel Field in St. Pete looking for Clarence Tolman, a producer. The clubhouse man thought the call was for Clarence Coleman, and he gave the phone to Choo Choo. Well, the man from New York was giving Choo Choo the various changes for the broadcast and Choo Choo kept saying, "Sure, Bub, I got it." The conversation went on for fifteen minutes.

Well, needless to say, we never got any of the changes for the game, and we had one of the worst telecasts in history that Saturday.

Choo Choo was with us for a very short time. He did, however, hit the first Mets' home-run ever in the spring of '62. The last we heard of him, Choo Choo was somewhere in Mexico.

I know he will never make the Hall of Fame, but on my list of favorite Mets of all time, he has to rank near the top.

JIM PIERSALL

by Roger Kahn

I first encountered Jim Piersall, that brief but hardly forgettable Met, when he was a flame of pure intensity in the Boston Red Sox outfield, and I was a young baseball writer, blessed, or burdened, with my first book contract. The year was 1954, precisely thirty years ago, when a free agent was not potentially a millionaire, but a discard, and ball players had to work for modest wages.

The editor said that he wanted a section offering technical baseball instruction "so that every Little League coach will buy your book." How much technical stuff? "Everything," the editor said, indulging himself, and at the same time picking up the check for a very expensive lunch.

Since nobody, least of all a fumble-fingered Parade Grounds ball player like myself, knew (or knows) "everything" about technical baseball, I decided to enlist allies. I would select a private All-Star team and draw, through questionnaires and interviews, technical baseball from my All-Stars. That was fine, said the editor; indeed brilliant. He then authorized me to pay each all-star fifty dollars, for which the publisher would reimburse me.

As I say, this was before free-agentry and the era of the Lawyer-Agent. Fifty bucks a head brought me a Comestock Lode of talent. Some of the names: Jackie Robinson, Stan Musial, Robin Roberts, Phil Rizzuto. The right fielder, described by the editor as the "fielding sensation of the American League" was one James Piersall, an absolute master in right at Fenway Park.

Jimmy liked the idea and he exploded. "Don't ad lib. That is, know where you're going to throw the ball before it's hit to you. Throw low, so that the ball can be cut off. Study your batters. Yogi Berra hits deep and pulls. Dale Mitchell sprays his hits. Make every catch with two hands and be in position to throw." And so on for at least half an hour. Piersall, I realized, was not a great natural outfielder. He was a great conscious outfielder. A shade of difference.

His subsequent years, and his battle with mental illness, were so dramatic that they formed the basis for a book and a movie each called "Fear Strikes Out." A basic Hollywood irony came into play with the selection of Anthony Perkins to act as Jim Piersall. Perkins played the emotional scenes acceptably, but at baseball time he ran like an actor and threw (dare I say it, Ms. Steinem?) like a girl. An unliberated badly-coordinated girl, I'd better add.

On a July day in 1963, Piersall sliced number 100 into the nearby right field seats at the old Polo Grounds. He hit it against a 6-foot-5 inch Philadelphia righthander, who would move into managing and front-office work. Fella name of Dallas Green.

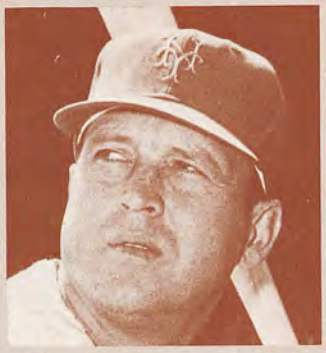
Then Piersall was off, sprinting backwards, toward first base and, while running backwards, he shook hands with Cookie Lavagetto, the first base coach. "It's not easy, shaking hands and running backwards," Piersall insists to this day. Recently, when Johnny Carson wanted to run a segment on the backwards homer, the sad news was that all the film, or tape, was lost.

Piersall survived. He survived the mental illness and Tony Perkins' performance, and in 1963—for forty games of 1963—Jimmy became a New York Met. A lifetime .272 hitter, he batted only .194. He is remembered best for running out a home run backwards. Even this, it should be explained, was no ad lib.

Duke Snider had hit his 400th major league home run, while wearing a Mets uniform and attracted relatively little newspaper space. Piersall told the Duke of Flatbush, "I have only 99 homers and when I hit a hundred I'm going coast-to-coast. I'll triple your exposure."

Casey Stengel, no stranger to comedy, was not amused. A few days later Piersall was banished from New York and sent to play for the California Angels. The way things went for the Mets in those days—not always brightly—Piersall ran forward in 1964 at California and batted .314.

He will be remembered in these climes for laughter, more than for his early brilliance and his great ball playing intelligence. May he walk in green pastures, either forward or backward.



MARV THRONEBERRY

by Ralph Kiner

If anyone was ever pre-destined to become a Met it had to be Marvin Eugene Throneberry.

When you think back to that 1962 season, two thoughts immediately come to mind; those 120 losses and Marvelous Marv.

The unbelievable thing about the defeats was that we always found a different way to lose, and Marv was always a key contributor. He never planned things—calamity just seemed to follow him.

That used to drive Marv crazy, too. He thought he was a Hall of Famer. Marv played two years with the Yankees in 1958 and 1959 and even appeared in a World Series game. From the press box, Marv looked like Mickey Mantle at the plate...until he swung the bat.

Marv never made the same mistake twice—he always made different ones. Take June 17, 1962, for instance. Marv hit what appeared to be a two-run triple in the ninth inning against the Cubs which would have tied the score at 4-4. However, umpire Dusty Boggess called him out for missing second base.

Casey Stengel stormed out of the dugout to argue. When Casey got to first base, Coach Cookie Lavagetto intercepted him and said, "Don't bother, Casey, he missed first base, too."

After the game in the locker room, Marv told the reporters, "What does everybody want from me? I hit the ball a long way. I just had a little trouble because I hadn't been to third base in awhile."

Rundown plays were always a constant dilemma to Marv. He just never seemed to get them right. He always threw to the wrong base, dropped the ball or did something that would make the play go bad.

On this particular day in St. Louis, we were playing the Cardinals and the score was tied in the ninth inning. The Cards had runners on first and third when Marv became involved in a rundown at second. For once he did it perfectly. He tagged the guy out at second and was really proud of himself. The only trouble was, that while he was preoccupied with the runner at second, Stan Musial scored from third with the winning run.

Marv was always confident of his ability to make mistakes. He had one particular hot streak in July of '62 and one reporter asked him, "Marv, do you think you'll lose your fans if you keep hitting so well?" Marv paused for a second and said, "Don't worry. I can get my fans back in one day."

What people don't realize, however, is that Marv never liked the "Marvelous Marv Throneberry" legend. He thought he was beyond that. Marv didn't clown around like, say, Jimmy Piersall. He was really quite serious.

The man who created the "Marvelous Marv" legend was Richie Ashburn. Richie and Marv were locker-mates at the Polo Grounds.

One day Marv made an error in the 13th inning that cost the Mets the game. Afterward, he continued to make all sorts of excuses as to why he missed the ball. Finally, Richie chirped in and said, "Marv, just tell them you screwed up. Go with the flow. These guys are going to make you a star."

After that game, Marv relaxed a little and he began to play along with the reporters' gags. Although I never thought he stopped believing he was the second coming of Mickey Mantle.

Despite his .244 batting average in 1962, Marv could have become Mayor of New York. There were always signs for him all over the Polo Grounds. One of the classics was "Cranberry, Strawberry, We Love Throneberry," and "Bring Back Marv" signs could still be seen at Mets games years after he had left the club.

Then there were five teenagers who used to show up at the Polo Grounds, each with a different letter painted on their shirts. They'd get up on top of the dugout and spell M-A-R-V. Then, when they got chased into the upper deck, they would spell out V-R-A-M.

Marv's luck was so bad that even when he won something, he lost. Howard Clothes, one of the Mets' sponsors in '62, had a sign on the outfield wall of the Polo Grounds. The player who hit a small circle on the sign during the season would win a motorboat. Marv was the winner.

It turned out that Marv had to pay a huge sum in taxes on his boat because it was won in a contest involving athletic skills. Also, he had to haul it down to his home in Colliersville, Tennessee, where he had no place to sail it.

Marv has come a long way since that 1962 season. He is now a big television star and appears in a host of commercials.

But when I think of Marvelous Marv, I will always recall that first season and Casey's favorite line: "Marv was upset the other day because the writers gave me a birthday cake. He asked how come they didn't give him one. I said, 'Marv, they would have, but they were afraid you'd drop it.'"

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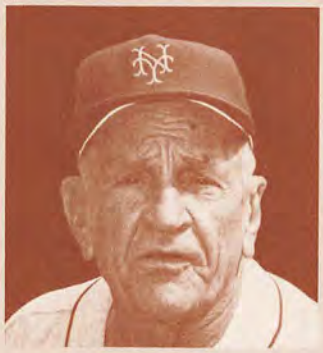


CASEY STENGEL

by Roger Kahn

There survives a breed of Brooklyn-born baseball fan who equates the departure of the Dodgers for Hollywood with the fall of the Roman Empire. Something burnished and golden is gone—it might as well be forever—and all that lies ahead is a thousand years of darkness.

Although this mental state is sometimes terminal, I have had good fortune in my treatments, doctor, with the verbal infusion of two words. Casey Stengel.

Charles Dillon Stengel, a Missouri native, would end his many years as a resident of Glendale, California, where he wound down life in affluence, bearing the weight of a high-sounding title from a bank. But Casey came to the metropolitan area as a Dodger rookie, who batted .316 in the year of 1912. Nine years later he joined the Giants and long after that, in 1949 he began a matchless career as Yankee manager. (In twelve years with the Yankees, he and his charges won the pennant ten times.)

But Casey was a Dodgers-kind-of-man. As president of the storied Utica Blue Sox of the Single-A New York-Penn League, I can assure you that baseball is a business, with bills and checkbooks, as surely as it is an entertainment. Casey, the ultimate Dodger, never let cash flow get in the way of the fun.

I think that is the tie, the hawser, that connects the old Dodgers with the New York Mets. If you go strictly by the numbers, the Brooklyn Dodgers were a team of laughs and patches, until their final decade. Even then they defeated the Yankees in a World Series only once. Similarly, the Mets with their brief moments in October sun have been a team of humor, fortune and characters. No one should argue that the greatest of these was Stengel.

The old man liked to win and you had better not forget that in his presence. In his playing days, he was a jackanapes, but one who, by all accounts, got serious with men on second and third. Managing certain genial, inept, relatively early Dodgers, he never finished higher than sixth. But when he was given talent at Yankee Stadium, he introduced modern platooning, plucked pitchers from the bull pen as though a diety were whispering into one of his large, flat ears and showed us all a thrilling kind of baseball.

If you wanted to be his friend, you had to expunge one word from your vocabulary. Clown. Casey had been called clown too often in his baseball wanderings ever to want to hear that word again. I rode in trains and taxis with him, mostly listening, sometimes laughing, but always taking him seriously, which is what he had in mind.

Once I was offered a magazine job, contingent on my writing a good story about Allie Reynolds. "You gonna get more money if I help ya, kid?" Case asked.

"Yes," I said. (Maybe even Yes, sir.)

"Well, then listen," he commanded. "Reynolds is the greatest, which is starting and relieving and I seen the great ones, Mathewson and I hit against them and there is no one that can start and relieve no better and I even hit against Cy Young and I wondered who that fat old guy was, which shows what a dumb young punk I was. You could look it up."

I got the magazine job. Casey smiled.

When the Mets hired him in 1962, Stengel knew what he was getting into. He had no Mantle, no Maris, no Rizzuter (as he said it) but a pick-up team and all the pressure of the New York press. So he made this, again to use his word, "comical."

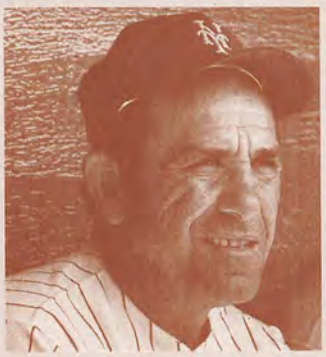
The tenth-places finishes downed hard, but he had been the route before, in Brooklyn, U.S.A., with Frenchy Bordagaray, circa 1935.

For the fun of it, and for the game he loved, he reverted to his Dodger days and made jokes. He jabbered with fans and coddled the press and braking this fierce will to win, Charles Dillon got the Mets out of the starting gate in the right spirit.

Only once did the effort become too much. After a long day, a double-header in Milwaukee, the early Mets travelled all night, first to Dallas, and then arrived in Houston about 8:30 in the morning.

In the hotel lobby, Casey called over Mets' travelling secretary, Lou Niss.

"If anybody wants me," said C.D. Stengel, the ultimate Dodger and the ultimate Met, "tell 'em I'm being embalmed."



YOGI BERRA

by Sparky Anderson

The Yogi-Isms have become legendary through the years. I think I have heard them all at one time or another... "That restaurant is too crowded. Nobody goes there anymore," or—what time is it, Yogi? "You mean right now?"

He has more anecdotes than Henny Youngman... "What did you do today, Carmen (Mrs. Berra)?" 'I took Timmy to see Dr. Zhivago,' she replies. Yogi asks, "What's wrong with him now?"

I could go on and on. A lot of people in and out of baseball just think of Yogi as a standup comic. Some do not picture him as the totally smartest human being in the world.

Well, I'm sorry to say that they really don't know the real Lawrence Peter Berra. The fans, I think, would be a little disappointed to know how downright wholesome Yogi is. I can tell you from first hand experience.

I was appointed manager of the Reds on October 8, 1969. The Mets were in Baltimore for the World Series. Yogi and I were together at church and he signalled me to meet him after the services.

He went out of his way to walk me back to my hotel and give me all the encouragement in the world. Here was a Hall of Famer taking the time to show a rookie manager the ropes. I never forgot his kindness.

Four years later, Yogi handed me one of my most disappointing defeats as a manager. The 1973 Reds team was a powerhouse club. We were expected to roll past the Mets in the divisional playoffs and take the World Series in a walk.

On paper, we had it all over New York. We won close to twenty games more than the Mets during the regular season. But a funny thing happened on the way to the Series... The Mets derailed us in the playoffs.

A great deal of the credit for the Mets victory goes to Yogi. I think he handled his players superbly and made all the right moves at the right times.

I always kidded him that every time he was in trouble, he would make the same decision: "Bring in Tug McGraw." He said, "You know, Spark, you're right."

Yogi has always been 'one of the guys' over the years. He doesn't look to dominate a situation. He will give the credit to his coaches, his players, anybody but himself.

Mr. Berra is a pretty wealthy individual, but he never lets anyone know how well off he is. That's just not his style.

Anytime I'm on the same field with him, we always sit down and have a long chat. Not a funny chat, but a chat about our families and friends.

I'm glad he's my friend. I personally think that he never gets enough credit for his baseball know-how. Sure, he can toss out the jokes, but that's only part of his schtick.

Don't forget—he had a great teacher in Casey Stengel. I think Yogi learned his lessons well from the old professor.

I always thought he did an outstanding job with the Mets. Remember, he became manager under the most terrible circumstances—when Gil Hodges died of a heart attack.

But Yogi took the reins and did things his way. In 1973, the Mets were 12 games out of first place and Yogi came up with another one of his axioms, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

Well, it wasn't over and Yogi led his team to the World Series.

Some people in Yogi's situation would continue to hit you over the head with all the success they have enjoyed. Not Yogi. He downplays almost everything he does. He can laugh at himself, and that's a trait that everybody should have.

I heard one story last winter about Dr. Bobby Brown, the new American League President, and Yogi. The two were roommates when they were with the Yankees.

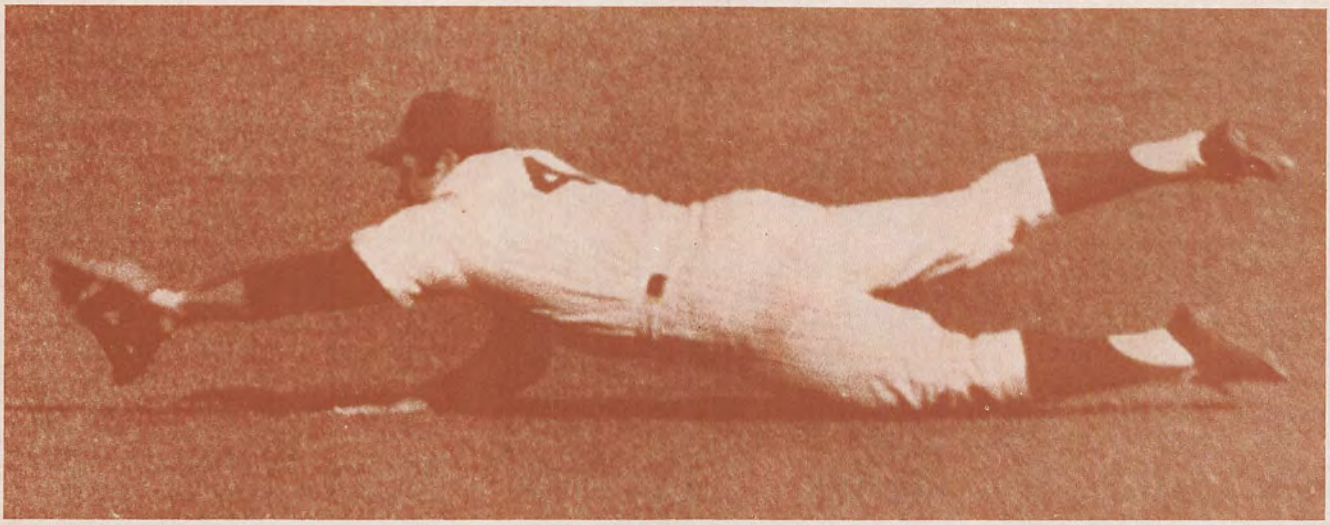
Supposedly, one night in their room, Dr. Brown was reading some medical books and Yogi was reading a comic. Before they turned out the lights, Yogi said, "Bobby, how did your book come out?"

That's all well and good. It's nice to laugh and have fun, and Yogi was and is all for that. I just want to leave you with one thought about Mr. Berra. He's dumb like a fox.

RON SWOBODA

by Bowie Kuhn

Nineteen Sixty-Nine was my first year as Commissioner. What an incredible season for a "rookie" to break in, thanks in large part to the "Amazin' Mets" and their rise from a ninth-place finish in 1968 to the National League pennant and a World Series victory over an extremely talented Baltimore Orioles team. It was, of course, a testament to team play with virtually everyone on the Mets' roster making key contributions in that historic season. I can't help but conjure up the name of Ron Swoboda—"Saboda" as Casey Stengel used to say—when I think of the players who symbolized the struggles and successes of early Mets.



Ron's early potential was enormous as were so many of the Met "kids" of the mid-sixties—Harrelson, Jones, McGraw, Boswell, Koosman, Seaver, Ryan and the rest. His Mets' rookie record of 19 homers stood for nearly 20 years until Darryl Strawberry shattered it by belting 26 last season. Swoboda also had the colorful and lovable qualities of those early-day Mets that so endeared the franchise to the New York fans.

There always seemed to be a good Swoboda story making the rounds. I can still recall some of them.

Bud Harrelson tells of how he believed Ron ended shortstop Roy McMillan's career and lengthened Bud's by moving to right field.

"In the early days," Bud recalls, "it was scary when you had to go back on a short fly to the outfield. I'd catch the ball and then hear Rocky's footsteps. He'd never know whether to go left or right so instead he'd just run me over."

Another classic Swoboda story occurred when Gil Hodges was the manager. With a 3-2 count, Ron took a third strike right down the middle. When he returned to the dugout, Hodges asked him why he didn't swing. Ron replied, "I was guessing ball." Even a serious Gil had to chuckle at that one.

Ron played an important role in the club's "miracle" 1969 season.

Who will ever forget his diving catch in right field in the ninth inning of Game Four that allowed the Mets to hold on until J.C. Martin's bunt won it in the tenth. And how many can recall that it was Swoboda who drove in the winning run in the fifth and final game with a double to left in the eighth that scored Cleon Jones and gave the Mets a 4-3 lead.

I, for one, will never forget.

TUG McGRAW

by Ralph Kiner

Tug McGraw's "You Gotta Believe" never will find its way into the history books alongside John Paul Jones' "Don't give up the ship," or Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty, or give me death."

However, to Mets' fans, no more memorable words were ever spoken, because many people feel that Tug's 1973 battle cry led directly to the pennant.

The opening months of the 1973 season were literally a disaster for both Tug and the Mets. He didn't have a win until after the All-Star Game and we were firmly entrenched in the cellar.

Then came the McGraw proclamation and things began to turn around. I remember the date as if it were yesterday—July 9, 1973—And we were home for a night game with Houston.

M. Donald Grant, then the Chairman of the Board, came down around 6:30 PM to address the team. His message was that the owners hadn't given up on the players and that everyone still believed in the Mets. Mr. Grant then left the locker room, but before he was out the door, Tug jumped up and yelled, "You Gotta Believe, You Gotta Believe!"

Mr. Grant came back in and thought Tug was mocking him, but he wasn't at all. That afternoon Tug had lunch with a friend who was giving him a course in positive thinking, and I guess he was just putting his lessons to good use.

Both the Mets and McGraw took off after that. From August 22 to October 1, Tug McGraw turned in a remarkable 19-game stretch during which he rolled up five wins, 12 saves and an 0.88 ERA.

It was only fitting that Tug was on the mound when we clinched the Eastern Division title in Chicago and the league championship series against the Reds.

Tug went on to pitch relief for the Mets through the 1974 season and still holds the club record for saves with 85.

When I remember Tug McGraw, however, I don't think of statistics at all. I think of all the crazy things he did on and off the field. Without a doubt, he was one of the most popular Mets in history.

The fans loved him for obvious reasons. He was just full of charm and charisma. No matter how many people waited for him outside of Shea to get his autograph, Tug never walked away.

Fans could easily see how much he enjoyed the game by his mannerisms on the field. Whether it was the

pounding of his glove on his side after an important out, or the way he raised his hand in the air after a victory, the crowd knew Tug cared.

One interesting fact about Tug is that he first started flapping his glove to signal his wife Phyllis in the stands that everything was okay. It soon became part of his trademark.

Tug always used to drive his managers a little crazy. In one spring training, we were staying at the Old Colonial Hotel in St. Petersburg. We were all sitting around the pool one day when we looked up and saw Tug going off the high board. Gil Hodges almost went crazy watching his star reliever sail through the air into the water. From that day on, the players weren't allowed by the pool in the hotel.

Tug was also responsible for another rule—no dogs in the clubhouse. Tug loved animals and always used to bring his Irish Setter, Pucci, to the field. One day Pucci ate up all the flowers around the locker room and got a lot of people pretty angry. Dogs were soon banned from Huggins-Stengel Field in Florida.

Mr. McGraw was full of pranks. Not too many people knew that he was ambidextrous. In batting practice, he used to love to come and throw right-handed. A lot of times, the crowd would buzz and wonder who was that guy in Tug McGraw's number 45 uniform.

Another of Tug's tricks was to dress up in somebody else's uniform on Camera Day. Once he made up to be Willie Mays, and when the fans saw number 24 come out of the dugout, they all rushed to the railing only to find a smiling Tug McGraw.

Probably my favorite Tug McGraw story occurred right on my Kiner's Korner show. This was in 1966 and Tug had just gotten out of the Marines. He had a short haircut then, and we thought it would be a good gag if he would give me a crew cut on the air. Tug was also an amateur barber. He almost killed me. I think I wore a hat in public for the next week.

I'm just glad he was a better pitcher than barber. And he was some pitcher. You can talk about all of his records, the fact that he was the first Mets pitcher to defeat Sandy Koufax and the host of other accomplishments that he compiled while in a Mets' uniform. But what I always will remember most about Tug is his heart and his drive to win. No one wanted to win more than Tug McGraw, but he always allowed himself to have fun doing it. That's the way it should be, too.

GEORGE THEODORE

by Roger Kahn

If you can find your way to Cooperstown, and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, you are not going to discover a bronze relief of George Theodore, aka Basil and the Stork. George was a high-shouldered, humorous, long-striding Met, with a lifetime batting average of .219. Those numbers get you to Little Falls, which is a Met farm team 50 miles from Cooperstown, but not into the Hall of Fame, unless you pay admission.

All the Mets staffers who knew George remember him as a free spirit who couldn't hit, and played at poetry. Bob Dylan is a free-spirited poet who couldn't hit, either. The difference is that Theodore could not hit on a much higher level.

George, who was born in Salt Lake City in 1947, graduated from the University of Utah 22 years later, an event he sometimes celebrated by signing letters as "The Utah Greek." He wore spectacles and is, as far as I can tell, the first major league ball player who induced management to pay for the eyeglasses he fit in place while playing ball. He made an arduous minor league journey from Utah to New York, moving up slowly from Pompano Beach to Memphis to Tidewater—a population clump mixing Norfolk and Newport News, Va.—until he crashed the Met line-up in 1973. That was a World Series year. George's World Series stats are oh-for-two.

But the Mets are a people team and George, who is many things that are important and good, is also a kind of singular of people. He has been fascinated by almost all happenings and once filled out a Mets publicity questionnaire by recording his interests as "astrology, marbles, people watching and psychoanalysis." He was a good, brave, hard-working fellow who (really) batted .259, among rough injuries during the pennant race of 1973.

Once chasing a fly ball, Theodore, 6-feet-4 and 190 pounds, collided with Don Hahn and dislocated a hip. This is an agonizing injury and his recovery required traction and therapy, equally painful. Defying medical opinion, he was back in the line-up by September, chasing fly balls. On another occasion, a fast ball rode up and in, shattering his glasses. He missed four days.

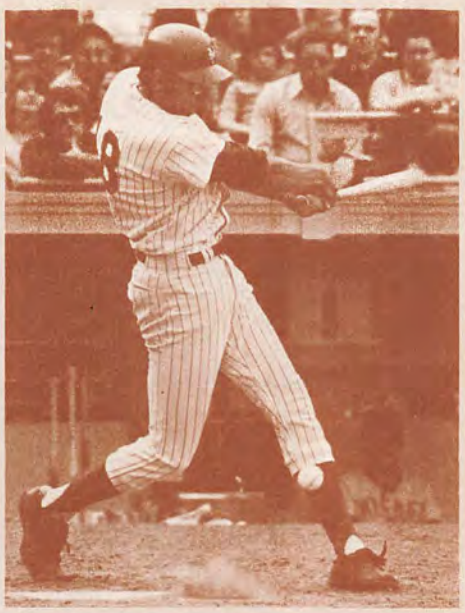
George worked as hard as any ball player ever has, but was able to live within his limitations. He played left field one day beside Willie Mays, who was feeling all the press of time in center. Someone polewhacked a line drive between the two of them and Mays, who reached the ball first, flipped it to Theodore. Willie's arm hurt and he couldn't throw hard enough to reach the infield. The flip was poor and the ball spun around in the left centerfield grass. George's reaction: "The scorer gave the error to me. He figured Willie could never make a bad play. So I got an error that belongs to Willie Mays. It's something I'll always remember."

While he worked with marginal skill, he threw off small nuggets of philosophy. "I've been trying transcendental meditation," he said, "and that helps me be passive and wait on the curve. I've got to find something else to hit the slider."

Negotiating with the front office once, he asked for a $100 bonus, if he was voted Most Popular Met. "I've never hit for that much average," George said, "but everybody admits I'm likeable."

On another occasion, he wrote this to the club, on a cool October day. "Because many are forgotten in the arena, I say this. I am a ball player. I'm not a poet. I'm not an astrologer. I'm not a tree-climber. I'm not a blithe spirit around to entertain the press. I... am... a.. ball... player."

What a fine pride—the psychologists would say a value sense—in somebody who worked that hard.



JERRY KOOSMAN

by Bowie Kuhn

It is truly a shame that Jerry Koosman never had the opportunity to play for Casey Stengel because Casey certainly would have remarked of Koosman's career, "You could look it up."

His achievements on the mound are well documented, of course. Entering his 17th year in the major leagues in 1984, Jerry brings a career record of 202-190 with a fine earned run average of 3.34 to his new team, the Philadelphia Phillies. And his post-season credentials—with the Mets in 1969 and '73—are a perfect 4-0 with three wins in World Series competition and another in the League Championship Series.

But the fans of New York, myself included, remember more than just the wins and losses when his name is mentioned.

They may remember his immense popularity not only with the fans but also with his teammates. After Koosman, never known for his speed on the base paths, stole second for the first and only time in his big league career in 1975, his teammates made sure to commemorate the event the following night by presenting him with the base.

There was something special about Koosman before he pitched in the major leagues. For one, he was signed at the request of a Polo Grounds usher. The usher's son was a catcher in the Army at Fort Bliss, TX, and he told his father abut a lefthander from Minnesota, Jerry Koosman, who was also at Fort Bliss. The usher urged the Mets to send someone to look at Koosman and that eventually happened. Scout Red Murff liked what he saw and signed Koosman to a contract effective at the end of his military duty.

Then at the end of spring training in 1966, Koosman was almost released by the Mets but was saved—so the story goes—by a $75.00 debt. It seemed that Koosman had had an accident with his car enroute to spring training that year and had requested—and received—a $75.00 loan from Minor League Director Joe McDonald. When the Mets' minor league staffs met at the end of the spring to determine roster cuts, the only vote in favor of keeping Koosman (5-11 at Class A Greenville and 0-2 at AA Williamsport in 1965) was McDonald. "We've got to keep him," McDonald reasoned, "he owes us seventy-five bucks."

Koosman remained and went 12-7 at Auburn with a 1.38 ERA.

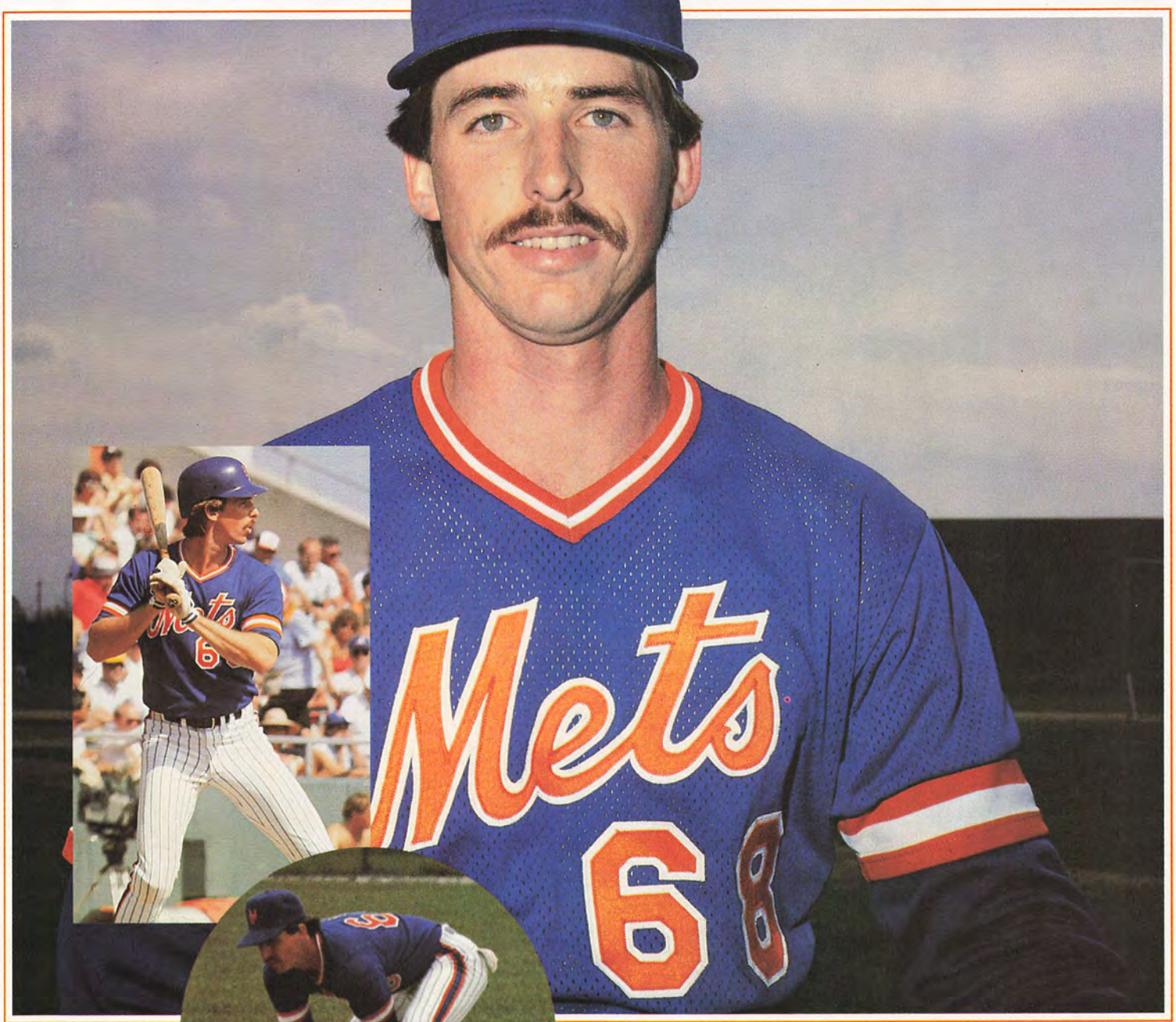
As the years went by, Jerry earned a great deal of admiration for his courage and determination. When he broke into the majors (losing the Rookie of the Year Award to Johnny Bench by one vote in 1968), he threw a 90-mile-an-hour fastball and relied on his power to get hitters out. But as early as 1969, when he won 17 games

for the "Miracle Mets", he began to be nagged by arm problems. He won just 12 games in 1970 and followed that with only six victories in 1971. But he never gave up and instead adjusted to rely on the curve to set up the fastball. He won 14 games in 1973 and, in '76, reached the 20-victory plateau for the first time when he four-hit St. Louis on September 16 at Shea Stadium.

As Casey would say, "You could look it up."

21 ROSS JONES

Ross Jones



The Mets were more than happy when they were able to acquire Sid Fernandez last winter. The only hitch was finding a replacement for valuable infielder Bob Bailor. They got their man when they insisted that the Dodgers include Ross Jones in the trade.

At Miami University, Ross began as an outfielder but was converted to shortstop where he earned All-America honors in 1980. He was the Dodgers' number one draft selection that same year, and has played every infield position while moving through their farm system.

The 24-year-old Floridian is not only an excellent fielder, Ross spent the last two years at Albuquerque (AAA) and hit .288 and .273 respectively.

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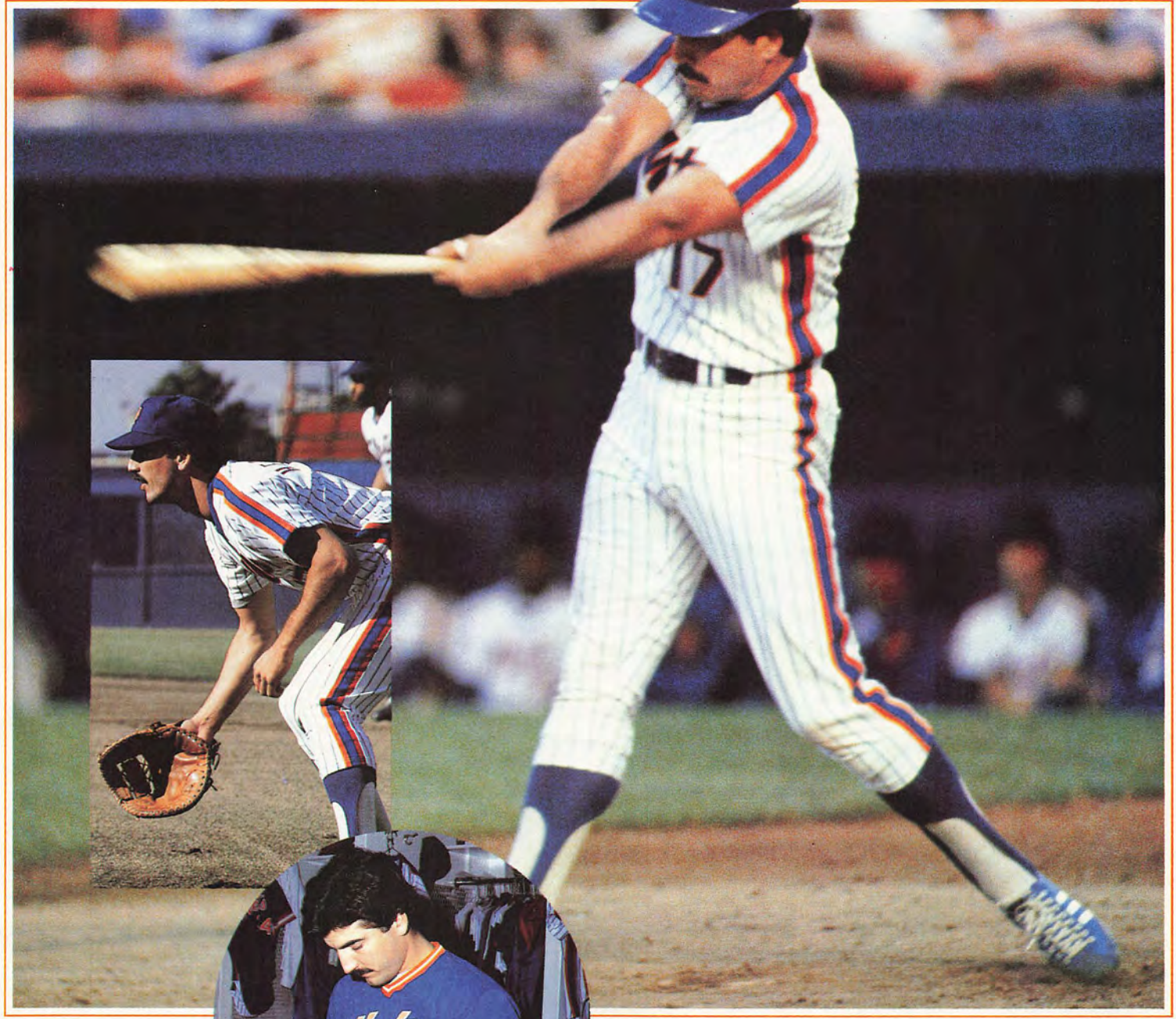
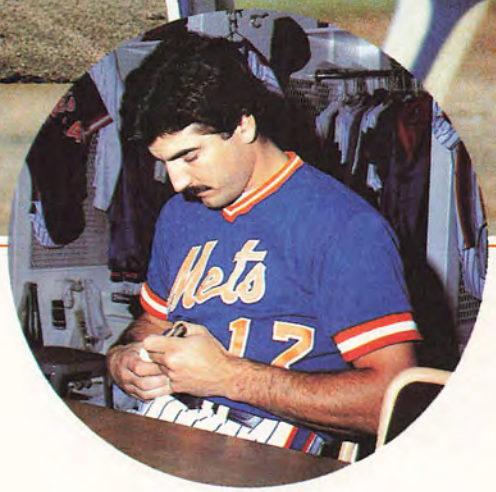
17 KEITH HERNANDEZ

Keith Hernandez



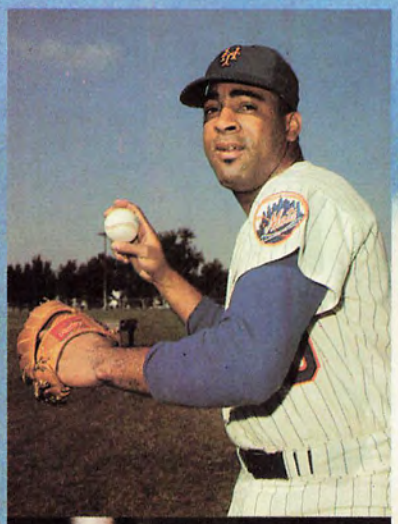


Keith Hernandez came over from the Cardinals in mid-season last year and hit .306 in 95 games with the Mets. For his defensive efforts he won his sixth straight Gold Glove Award as the league's top first baseman.

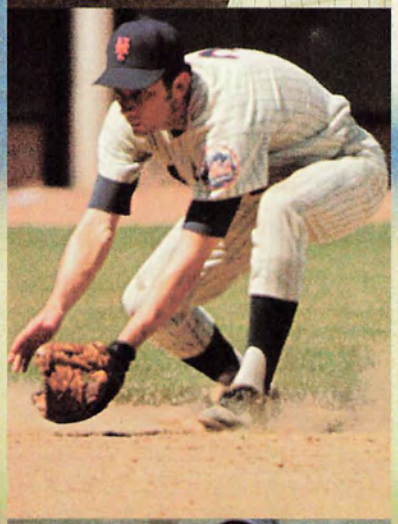
The 30-year-old St. Louis native hit .297 on the year and now sports a .299 lifetime average. He provides the club an ideal batter in the third position hitting in front of George Foster and Darryl Strawberry.

Keith has been the premier first baseman in the league since the mid-seventies, and gives the Mets needed stability in the infield. Last year his fielding percentage was .992, and he led the N.L. in putouts, total chances, and DP's.

GOLD GLOVE



Tommie Agee '70



Bud Harrelson '71

Doug Flynn '80

When Keith Hernandez was a kid growing up in San Francisco, his father would take him to Giants' games at Candlestick Park. Most of the time the opponent would be the St. Louis Cardinals because Keith's dad wanted him to watch their first baseman Bill White.

"I've been a first baseman my whole life, even in little league," said Keith. "My dad felt Bill White was the best at the position and we'd go specifically to watch him play the bag. He was the best as far as I was concerned."

It seems fitting that now, some 20 years later, Keith has made his mark with the same St. Louis Cardinals, and this year will be trying to match White's National League record by collecting seven consecutive Gold Glove Awards. Keith won his sixth straight in 1983 after splitting the season between the Cards and Mets.

The Gold Glove, established in 1957 and presented annually by the Sporting News and Rawlings Sporting Goods, is given to the outstanding defensive player at each position in both leagues. While three first basemen have won it more times–George Scott won eight Awards, and White and Vic Power seven each–it's a good bet that Keith will continue to add to his total and establish himself as one of the best first basemen in baseball history.

New York fans now know why Keith has become an almost "automatic" choice in the balloting. Before joining the Mets, he and the Cardinals made just three visits to Shea all year playing nine games. Now fans have the privilege to watch him play the field everyday, and that's when you really appreciate his work at first base.

Like many great defensive players, it's not the spectacular that you remember most about Keith Hernandez, but it's the ease and grace with which he plays the position. Whether it be a throw in the dirt or a tough 3-6-3 doubleplay, somehow the difficult plays seem routine for Keith. You also notice how few bad throws the other infielders make to first when he's there. For one, he picks up virtually every ball thrown to him, but also the infielders relax knowing their throws don't have to be perfect to get the out.

In the twenty-one years of the Mets from 1962-1982 prior to Keith's arrival, three Mets had been awarded Gold Gloves. Looking at it another way, he alone has twice as many as the Mets team in that period.

Tommie Agee, with his two spectacular catches in game three of the '69 Series still fresh in everyone's mind, was the first Met to win a Gold Glove for the Mets when he captured the honor in 1970. Popular Bud Harrelson, most likely the best infielder in Mets' history to date, received much deserved recognition as the league's best shortstop in 1971. And finally, after he was edged out in 1979 by Manny Trillo, Doug Flynn won a Gold Glove in 1980 with a superb year at second base.

The Mets have had many players come to New York who had won Gold Gloves with other clubs. Roy McMillan, with the Mets for three seasons 1964-66, won the very first Award at shortstop in 1957 and followed with two more in '58 and '59 all with the Reds. The great Willie Mays, who owned the Gold Glove for 11 straight seasons with the Giants, finished his career with the Mets in '72 and '73.

Other players who played for the Mets and won Gold Gloves for other clubs are Gil Hodges, Jim Piersall, Ken Boyer, Frank Lary, Charlie Neal, Joe Torre (as a catcher), Felix Millan, and Ellis Valentine. These players won the Award prior to coming to the Mets, while two others, Amos Otis and Mike Jorgensen, received the honor after being traded to other teams.

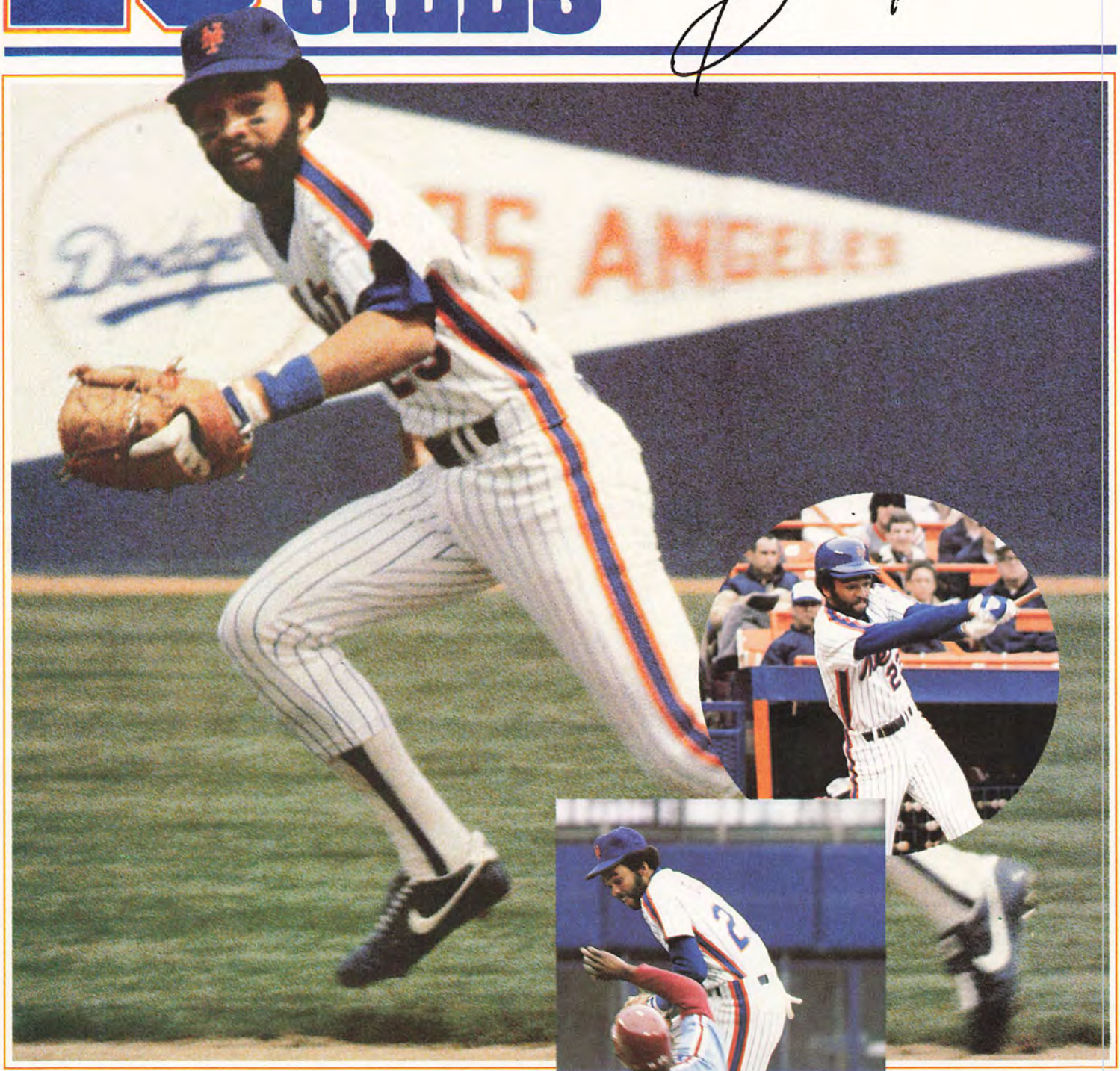
One Met who never won the Gold Glove Award, but was regarded as one of the finest catchers in the game, was Jerry Grote. An aggressive catcher with a great arm, Jerry had the misfortune of playing in the same era as the great Johnny Bench.

Keith Hernandez takes pride in being mentioned with the great defensive players in baseball history, and intends to keep his streak alive adding to his growing collection. "I work at defense," said Keith, "because I know how valuable it is to the team and winning. I enjoy driving in runs, but I get as much pleasure preventing runs with good defense. To me it's equally important."

So, much as the way Keith's father took him to Candlestick to watch Bill White, if you're a parent and your son or daughter plays first base, a good suggestion is to bring them to Shea this year to learn from the best at the position–Keith Hernandez.

Willie Mays, Roy McMillan, and Ken Boyer won a combined total of 19 Gold Gloves before coming to the Mets. Jerry Grote was an excellent catcher but never was given the Award.

23 BRIAN GILES

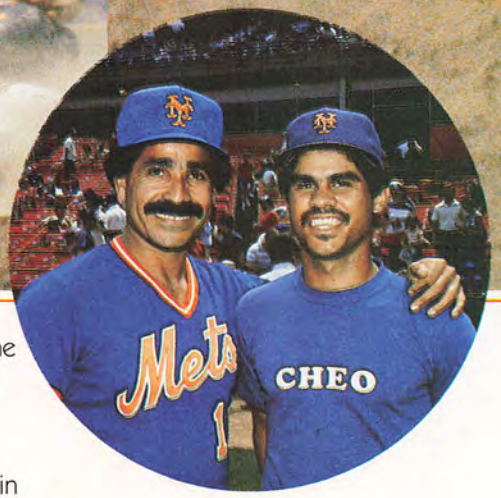


Brian Giles hopes to begin this season in the same manner he finished 1983.

Brian raised his average 13 percentage points and drove in 10 runs over the final eleven games of the year. He had 13 hits in 33 at bats and had the biggest day of his brief career on September 24 in Chicago. That day he had four hits, including a double and a homer, with four RBI's.

The 24-year-old infielder committed just 14 errors in 145 games proving why many feel he will become one of the best defensive second-basemen in the game.

2 JOSE OQUENDO



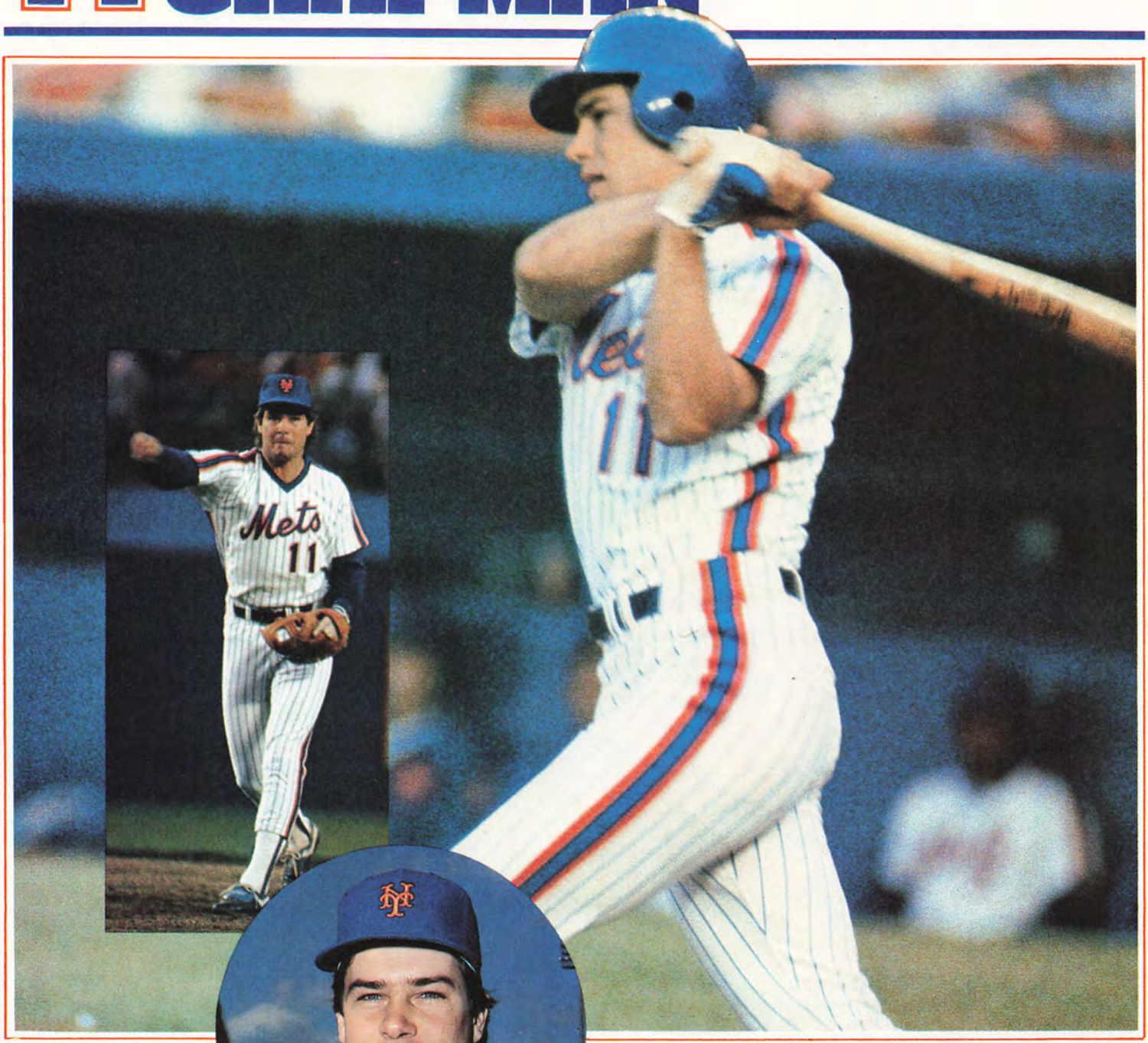
Jose Oquendo is one of those shortstops who make the difficult play look routine. Just 20-years-old, it's a good bet he'll soon be one of the premier infielders in the National League.

Jose hit .213 in 1983, but knows he will improve that figure this season. He began the year as a switch-hitter, but in mid-season decided to bat solely from the right side. He enjoyed great success against San Francisco batting .395 against the Giants with 15 hits in 35 at bats.

He spends winters at his home in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and credits much of his success to former Met, Felix Millan.

11 KELVIN CHAPMAN

Kelvin Chapman



Kelvin Chapman was the Mets' second baseman on opening day in 1979, but was sent to the minors after appearing in just 35 games. Five years later he's back with the Mets.

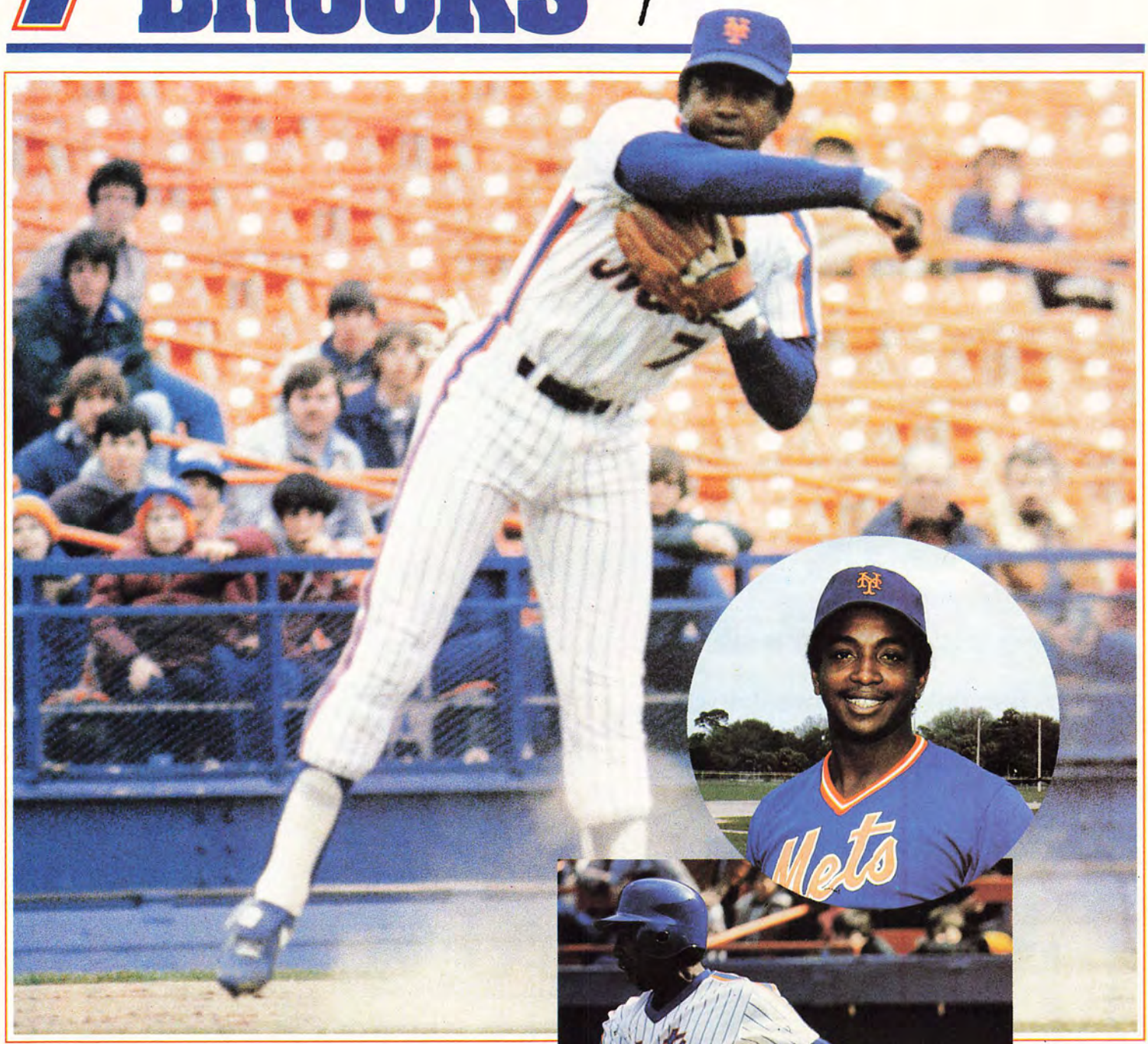
Following two solid seasons at Tidewater (.280 in '82 and .274 last year), Kelvin was recalled in early May to strengthen the middle infield.

"I never thought I'd get back," said the 27-year-old Californian. "It's been a tough five years, but I never thought about quitting. I'm just going to enjoy myself, this time I'm going to relax and have fun."

Kelvin Chapman is a classic example of perseverance and hard work paying off.

7 HUBIE BROOKS

Hubie Brooks



Hubie Brooks has appeared in 387 games at third base for the Mets. Only Wayne Garrett, with 709 games, has appeared in more games at that position in the 22-year history of the club. At 27-years-old, Hubie is a "veteran" on a young Mets team.

In 1983, Hubie established career highs in seven different categories including games, hits, homers and RBI's. He had nine three-hit games, and finished third on the club with eight game-winning RBI's.

His biggest game of the year came on June 28 at St. Louis in a 10-1 Mets' win. That day he tied a club record with five hits collecting four singles and a double.

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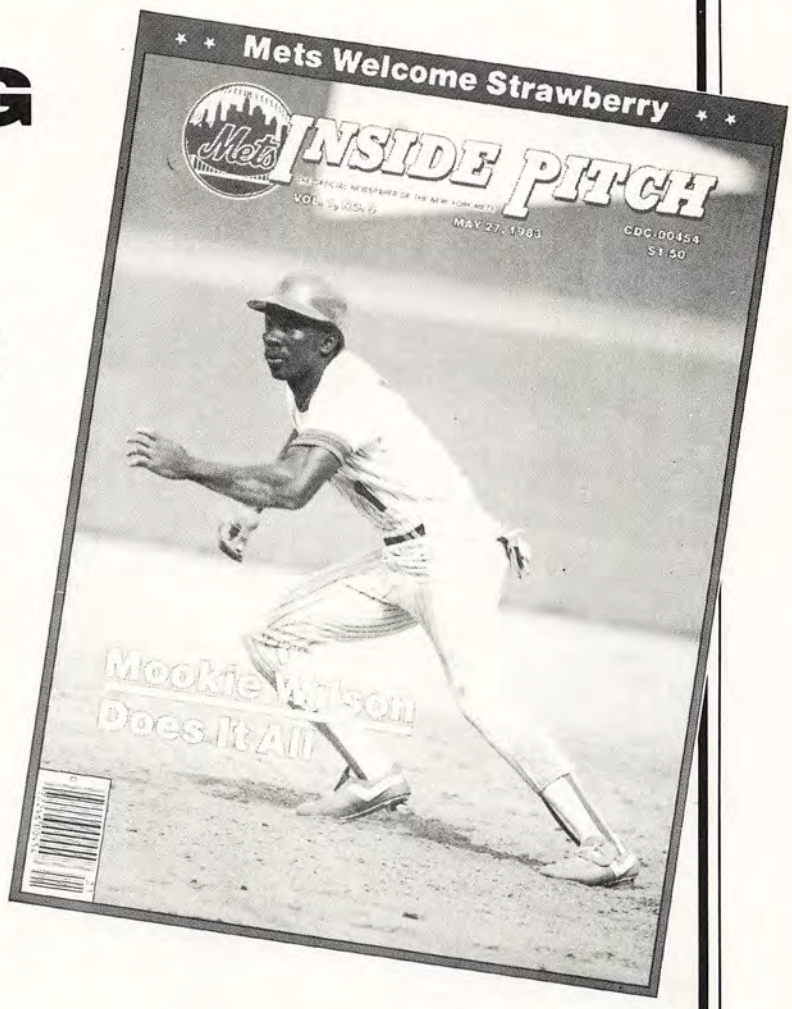

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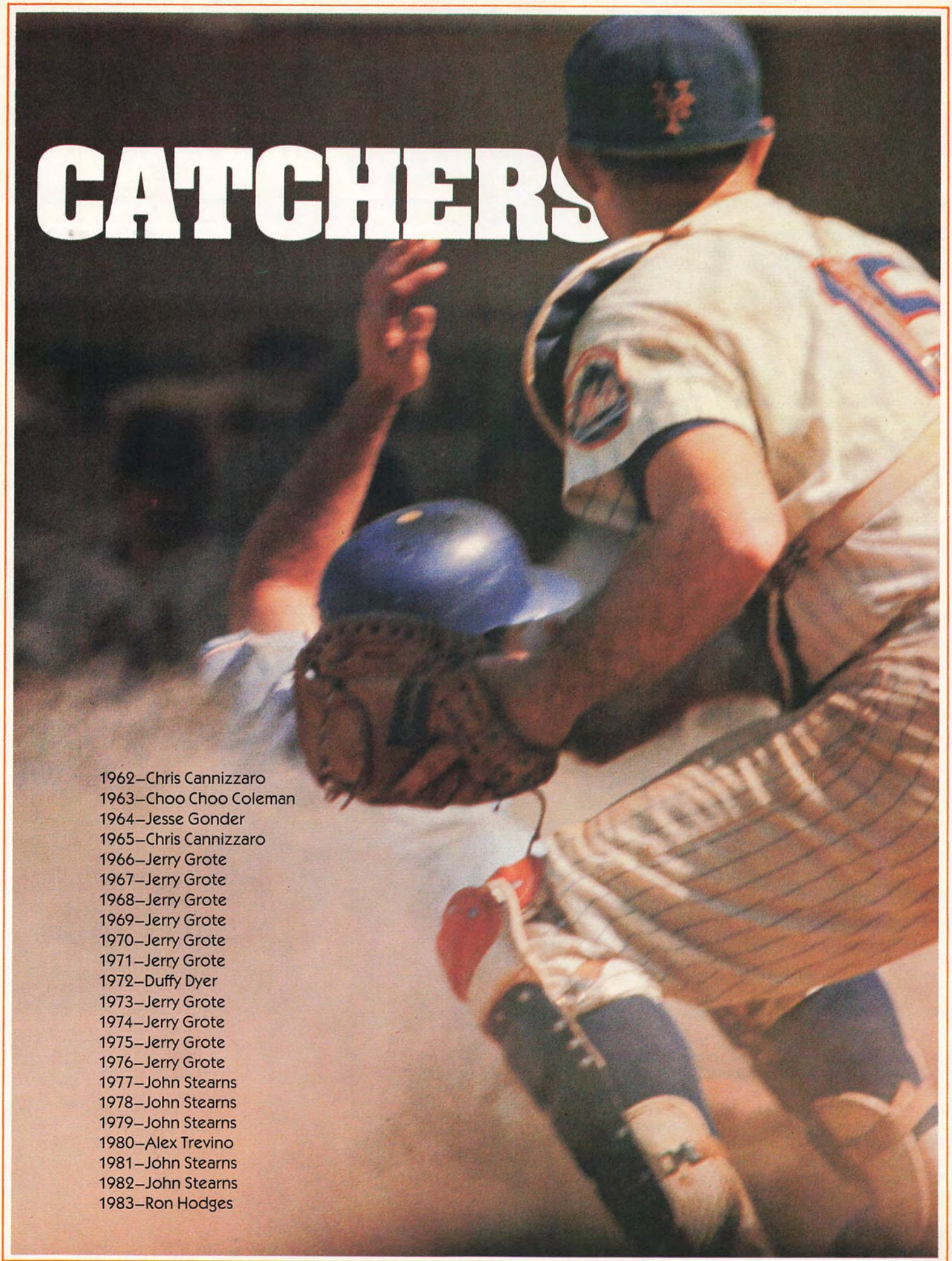
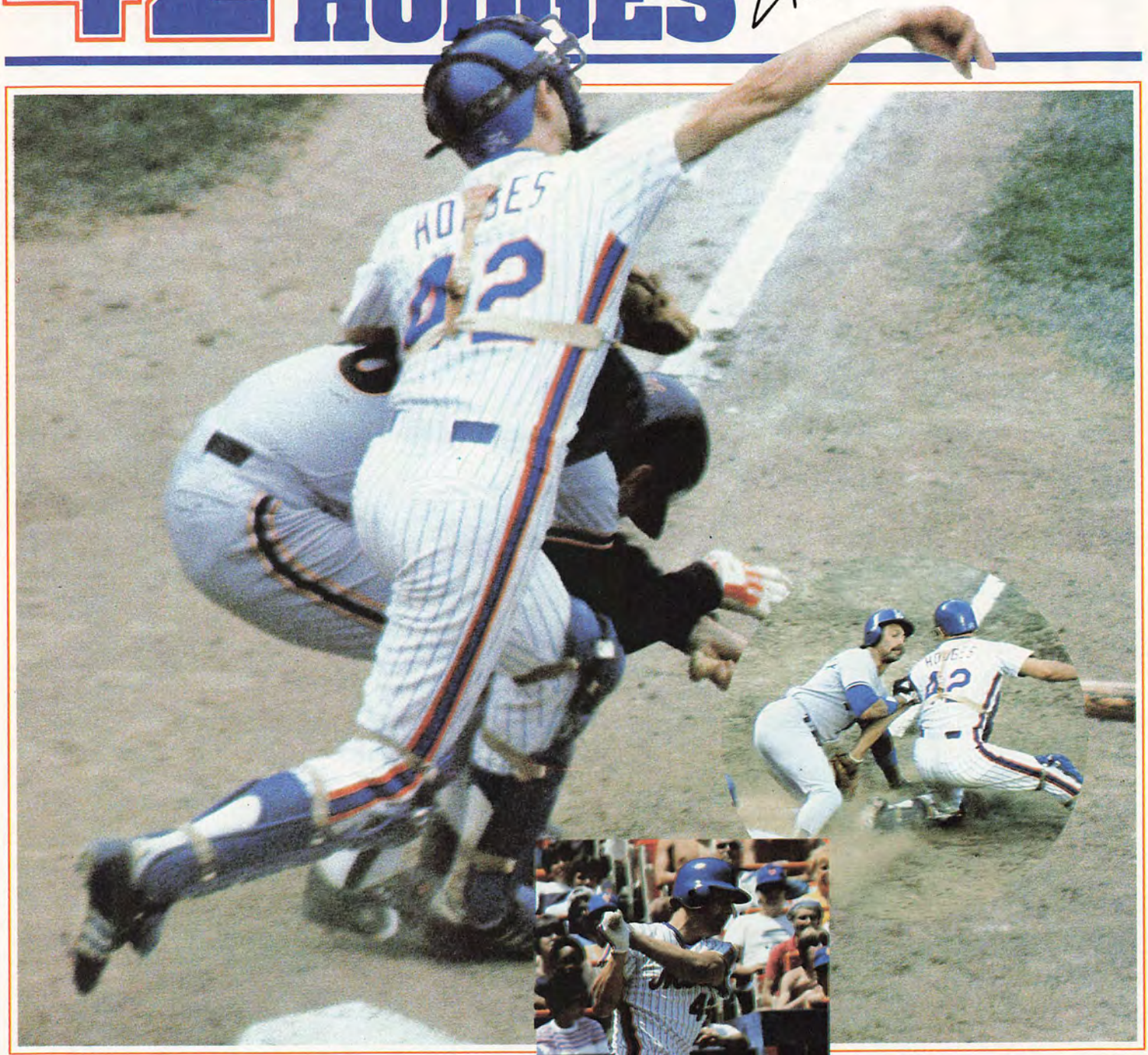


1962–Chris Cannizzaro
1963–Choo Choo Coleman
1964–Jesse Gonder
1965–Chris Cannizzaro
1966–Jerry Grote
1967–Jerry Grote
1968–Jerry Grote
1969–Jerry Grote
1970–Jerry Grote
1971–Jerry Grote
1972–Duffy Dyer
1973–Jerry Grote
1974–Jerry Grote
1975–Jerry Grote
1976–Jerry Grote
1977–John Stearns
1978–John Stearns
1979–John Stearns
1980–Alex Trevino
1981–John Stearns
1982–John Stearns
1983–Ron Hodges

42 RON HODGES



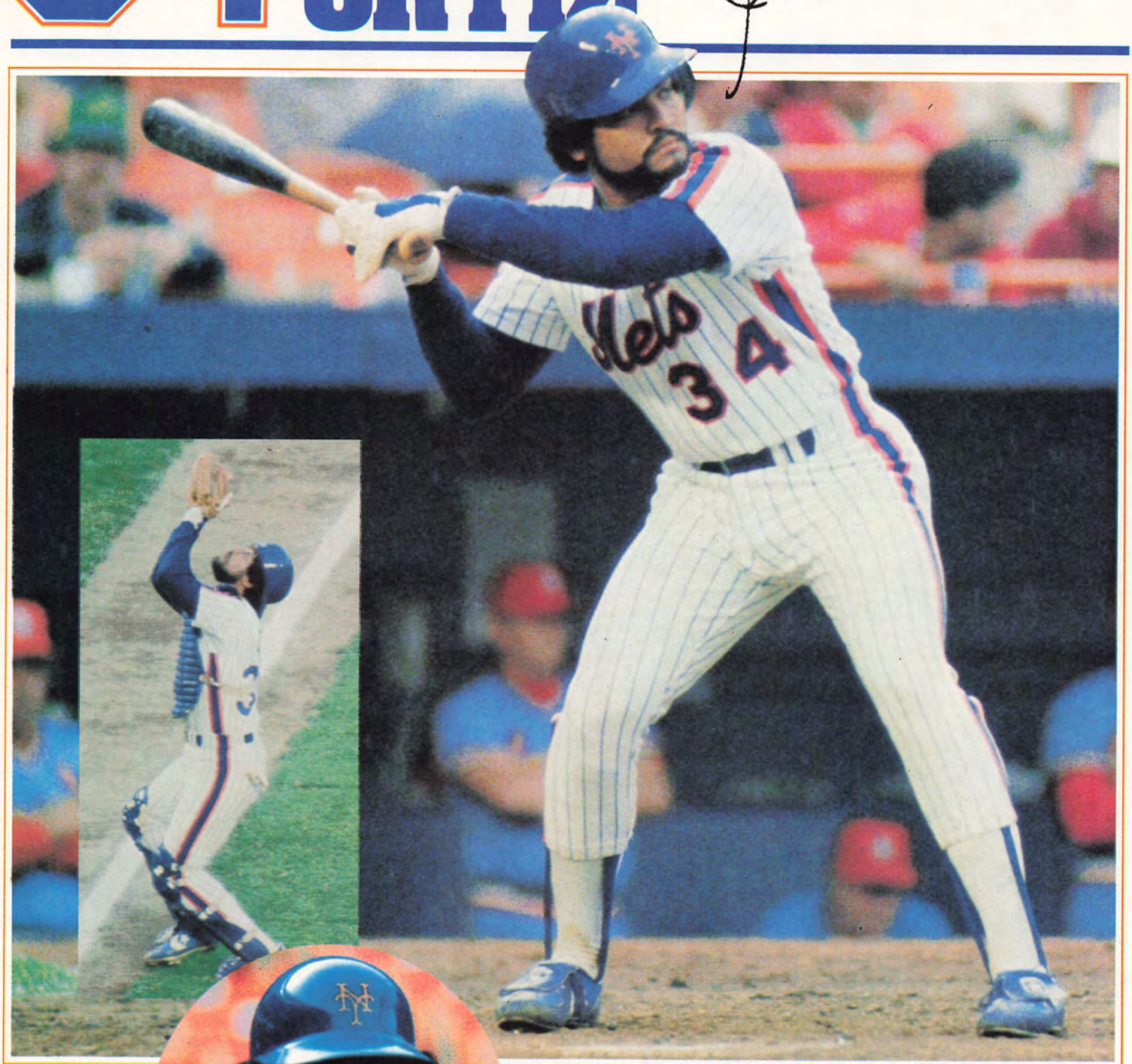
Ron Hodges, the senior man on the Mets, enters his tenth season with the team. Among active catchers in major league baseball, only the Dodgers' Steve Yeager has longer continuous service with the same club.

In 1983, Ron set major league highs in games, at bats, and hits, and tied a career best with a seven-game hitting streak in late August. On August 20 at San Francisco, he tied a major league record with two doubles in one inning in a win over the Giants.

Ron, a consistent pinch-hitter throughout his career, hit .429 off the bench with six hits in 14 at bats, and now has 42 lifetime pinch-hits.

34 JUNIOR ORTIZ

Junior Ortiz

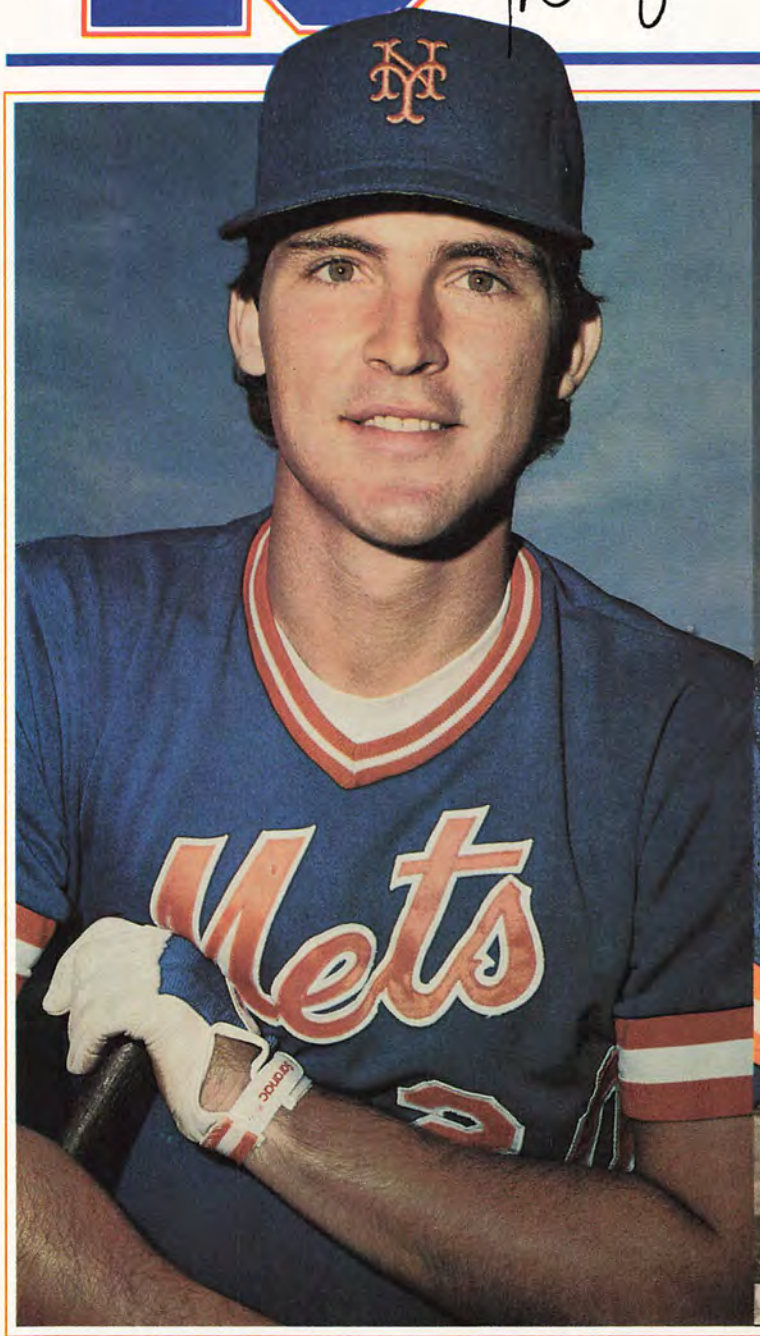


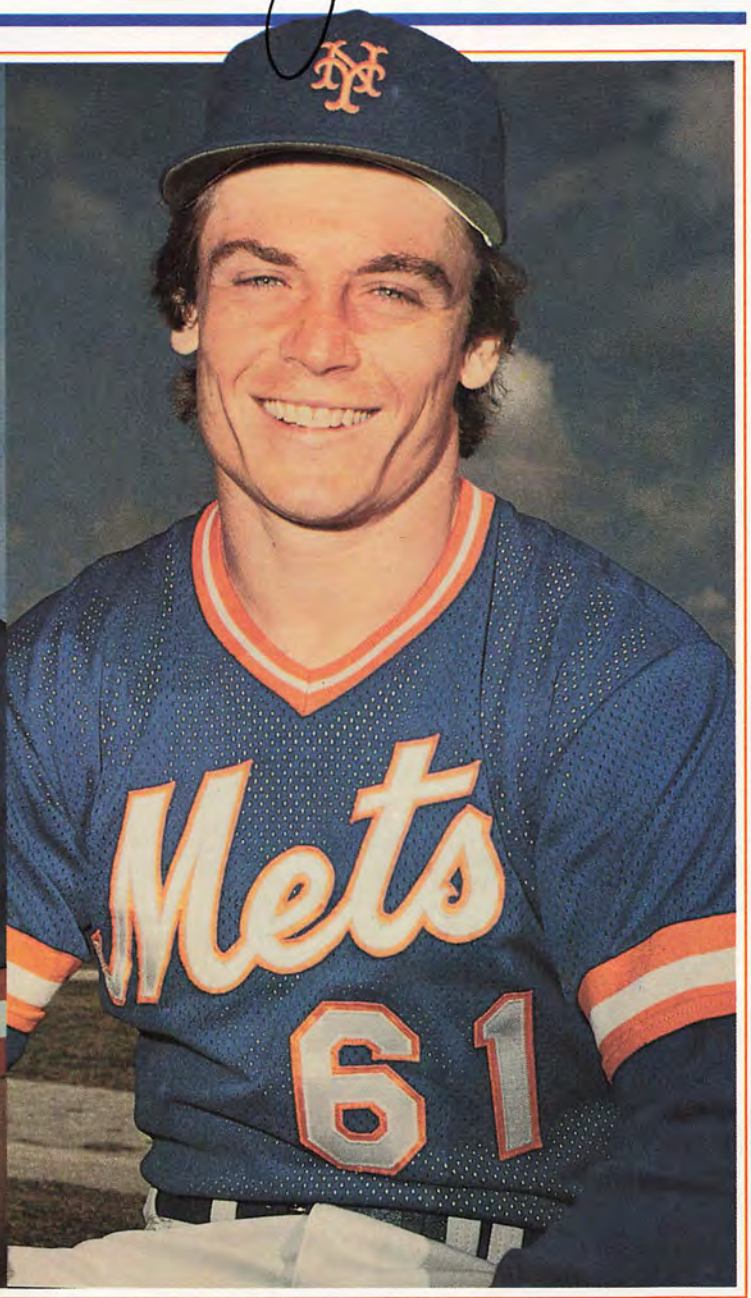
Junior Ortiz is looking forward to his first full season with the Mets. He was obtained from the Pirates last June, and started 56 games behind the plate following his acquisition.

Junior, who led the Eastern League in batting in 1980 with a .346 average, finished the year strong batting .276 over his final 34 games. The 24-year-old native of Humacao, Puerto Rico, is a very quick catcher with a strong throwing arm, and his style is very similar to Pittsburgh's Tony Pena.

With John Stearns still a question mark in the Mets' plans this season, Junior could be a key to the club's fortunes in 1984.

20 8





MIKE FITZGERALD

Mike Fitzgerald enjoyed a fine season at Tidewater in 1983. The 23-year-old Californian hit a solid .284 and showed good power with 14 homers and 65 RBI's.

Mike joined the Mets on September 12th last year and started six games. In his first game on September 13, he became the 48th player in major league history to hit a home run in his first plate appearance when he connected off the Phils' Tony Ghelfi at Veterans Stadium.

Davey Johnson saw Mike in action all season at Tidewater and knows that Mike can give much needed help to the Mets' catching corps.

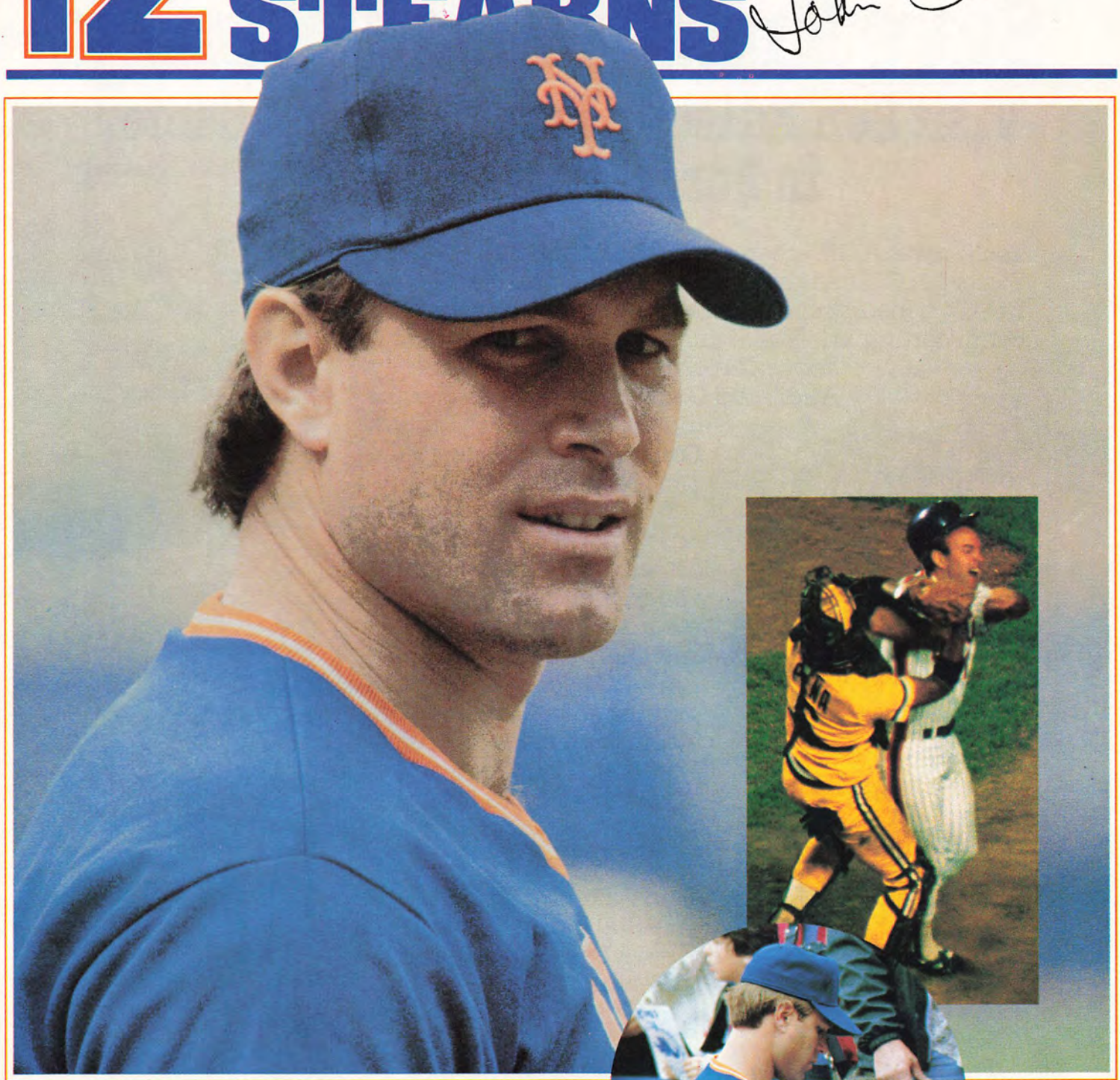
JOHN GIBBONS

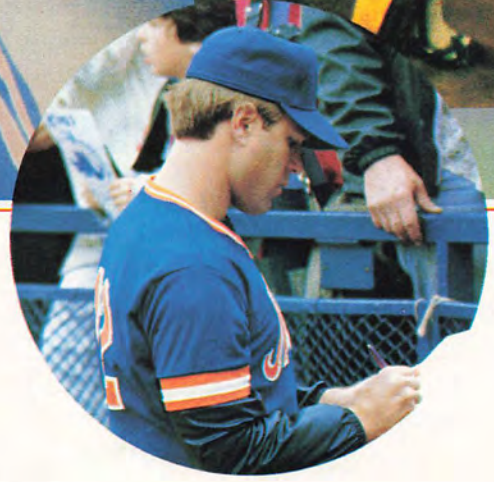
John Gibbons has a bright future in major league baseball. Since being drafted in the first round of the 1980 draft, John has continued to improve each year.

John spent the entire year at Jackson (AA) in 1983, and hit .298 with 18 homers and 67 RBI's. He was named the catcher on the Texas League All-Star team, and won the Doubleday Award as the MVP on the Jackson squad.

John, 21-years-old and a native of San Antonio, TX, was promoted to Tidewater after the Texas League playoffs last year, and helped the Tides capture the Triple-A World Series title.

12 JOHN STEARNS





The 1983 record book for John Stearns will read four appearances as a pinch-runner, and two operations on his right elbow.

The last time John came to the plate was on August 17, 1982, when he singled as a pinch-hitter. Last season, after months of rehabilitation and no sign of improvement, he underwent surgery in June to remove an inflamed tendon from his elbow. Following surgery, he continued rehabilitation and was restored to the active roster in June. Following the season, he underwent a second operation to remove scar tissue from the area.

Hopefully, the elbow will respond favorably to treatment this season, and the four time all-star will join the starting lineup this spring.

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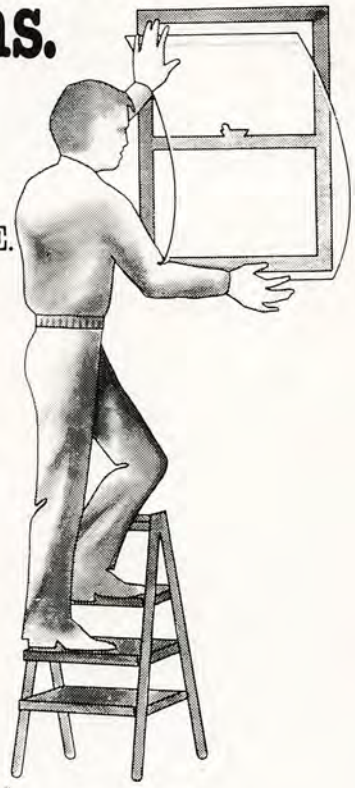

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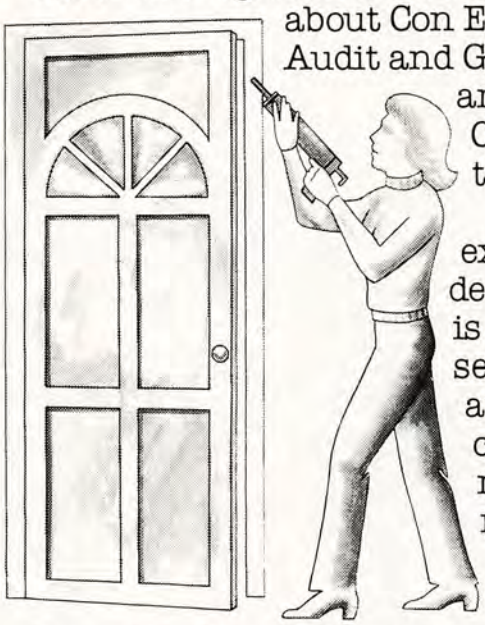

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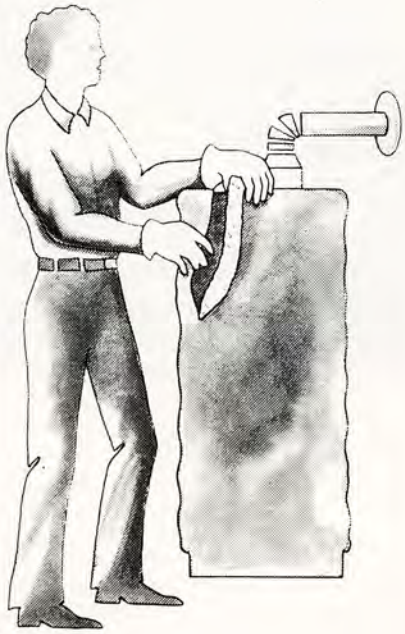

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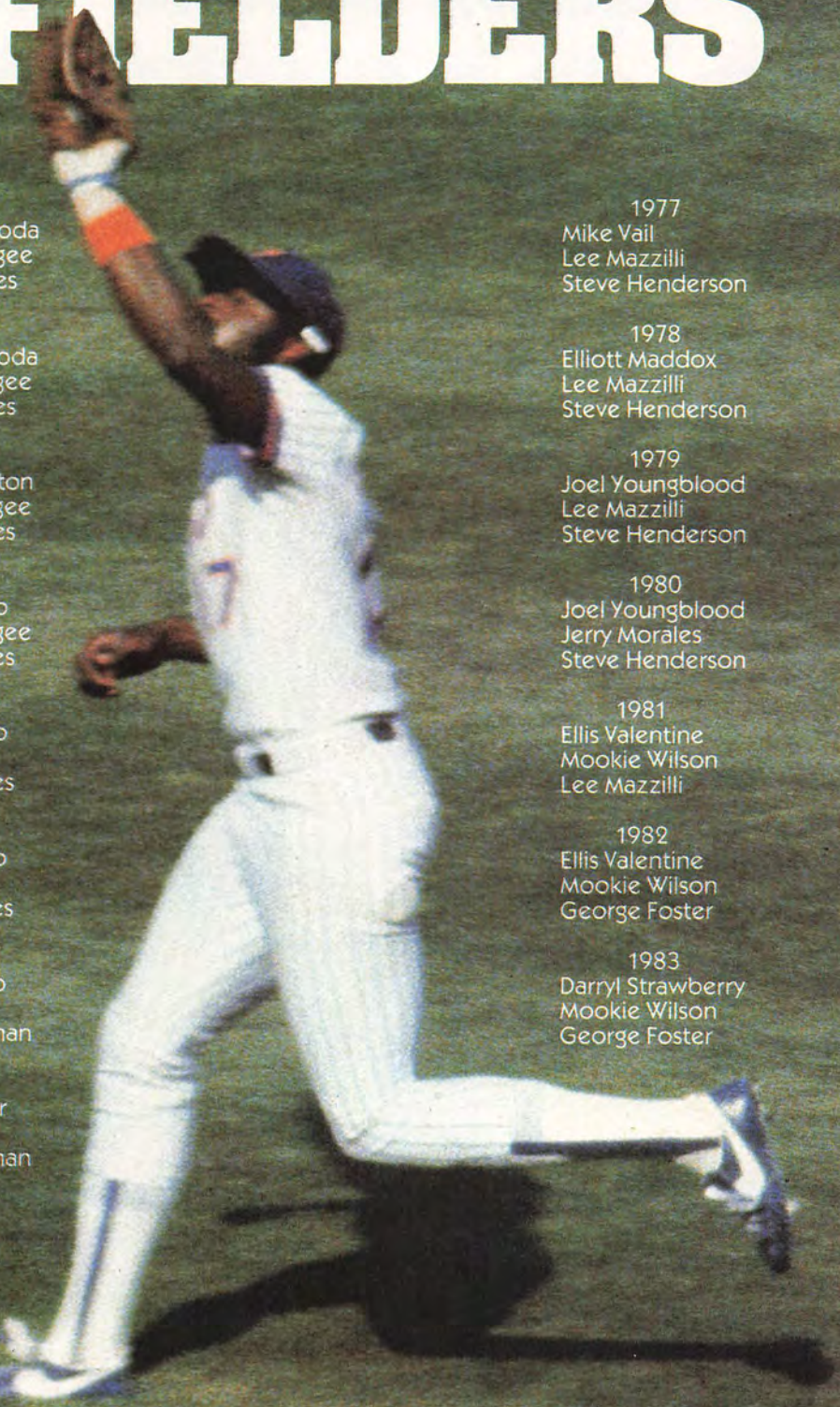

1962
Richie Ashburn
Jim Hickman
Frank Thomas

1963
Duke Snider
Jim Hickman
Frank Thomas

1964
Joe Christopher
Jim Hickman
George Altman

1965
Johnny Lewis
Jim Hickman
Ron Swoboda

1966
Al Luplow
Cleon Jones
Ron Swoboda

1967
Ron Swoboda
Cleon Jones
Tommy Davis

1968
Ron Swoboda
Tommie Agee
Cleon Jones

1969
Ron Swoboda
Tommie Agee
Cleon Jones

1970
Ron Swoboda
Tommie Agee
Cleon Jones

1971
Ken Singleton
Tommie Agee
Cleon Jones

1972
Rusty Staub
Tommie Agee
Cleon Jones

1973
Rusty Staub
Don Hahn
Cleon Jones

1974
Rusty Staub
Don Hahn
Cleon Jones

1975
Rusty Staub
Del Unser
Dave Kingman

1976
John Milner
Del Unser
Dave Kingman

1977
Mike Vail
Lee Mazzilli
Steve Henderson

1978
Elliott Maddox
Lee Mazzilli
Steve Henderson

1979
Joel Youngblood
Lee Mazzilli
Steve Henderson

1980
Joel Youngblood
Jerry Morales
Steve Henderson

1981
Ellis Valentine
Mookie Wilson
Lee Mazzilli

1982
Ellis Valentine
Mookie Wilson
George Foster

1983
Darryl Strawberry
Mookie Wilson
George Foster

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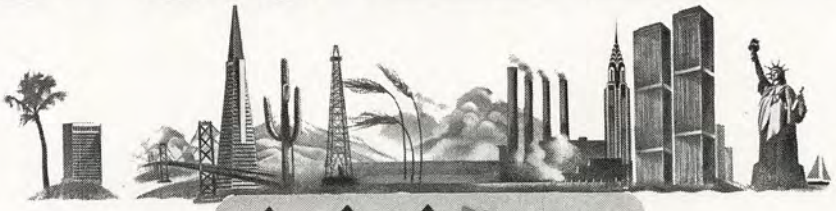

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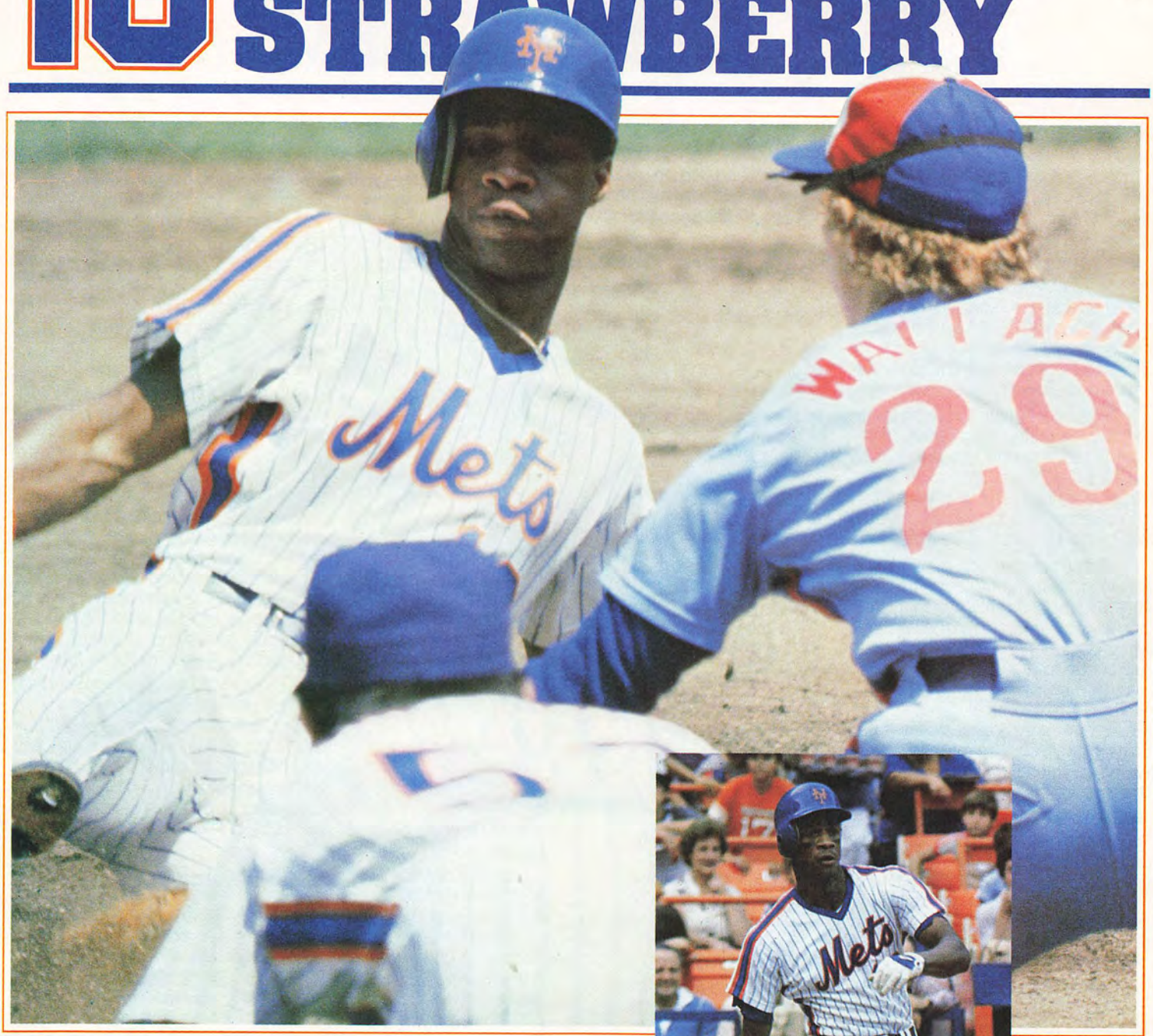
18 DARRYL STRAWBERRY



Darryl Strawberry arrived in New York last May as the most heralded rookie in the history of the Mets. After a slow start, he adjusted to the big leagues and walked away with Rookie-of-the-Year honors by season's end.

Darryl batted .257 with 26 homers and 74 RBI's, and set three club records in 1983. He broke the record for homers by a lefthanded batter, and the rookie marks for both homers and RBI's. His .512 slugging percentage would have been tops in the history of the Mets, but he lacked 29 plate appearances to qualify.

But what makes the 22-year-old rightfielder so special, is that he does everything so well. He can also run and play his position, as his 19 stolen bases and eight outfield assists (5th in N.L.) indicate.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

For Darryl Strawberry, maybe the comparisons have come to an end. Since his school days at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles, he's been called at various times a "young Dave Parker", a "black Ted Williams", the "next Willie Mays", and on and on. After his season in 1983, now fans can appreciate him for what he is–Darryl Strawberry, outfielder, New York Mets, 1983 National League Rookie of the Year.

Sure he still has a lot to prove, but the fact is that the fans and the media now know Darryl as a ballplayer and as a person. No longer is he a "future superstar" struggling and climbing through the farm system. He arrived, he succeeded, and now it's time to get down to business.

"Last year I came to spring training to make the team," said Darryl. "It's completely different this year. I know I'm the Mets' rightfielder, most of the pressure is gone. This year I want to improve my skills, be more consistent, and help the team win ball games."

As the number one pick in the nation in 1980, the 6-6 outfielder attracted more attention than most big league players do in their entire careers. As a minor leaguer he was the subject of countless publications, and was profiled by just as many television stations, whether local or network. In the first two weeks of this past spring training, he had been through sessions with five national magazines, 18 television shows, plus the daily crush of newspaper reporters.

With a last name like Strawberry, Darryl has been the dream of those men and women at newspapers who write the headlines everyday, and those headlines are a chronicle of his baseball career. As a senior at Crenshaw, it was "Strawberry Ripe For Pickin'", but when he got off to a dreadful start in rookie ball (two hits in his first 44 at bats) at Kingsport, the headlines became "Is This Strawberry A Lemon?", "Pro Life Not All Peaches 'n Cream For Strawberry", and "Strawberry Runs Into Jam At Kingsport".

Obviously, fortunes changed for the better, and our friends at the newspaper desk changed their tune also. When Darryl began hitting at Lynchburg in '81, and especially at Jackson in '82 when he was the Texas League MVP, the headlines turned to "Strawberry Cool As A Cucumber", "Vintage Year For Strawberry", and "Strawberry Ripens On The Farm". Last year proved much easier, simpler, and away from the strawberry angle–"Progressing Toward Stardom", "A-Mays-ing Darryl", "Darryl-Mets Messiah", and so on.

Darryl's season in 1983 seemed to be quite similar to his first three years in the minors–the slow start, the adjusting, and finally, the strong, powerful push at the finish. He struggled early after his recall on May 6 from Tidewater, and after 24 games through June 5, Darryl was hitting .161. At the time, considering he missed a month besides, the Reds' Gary Redus, after a great start, seemed destined to be the top rookie. Redus faded and Darryl began to come on. The Dodgers' Greg Brock was next in line. Brock was leading all rookies in home runs and RBI's, and after all, he was from "Dodger Blue" and they seemed to win the prize every year. He faded as Darryl passed him in both departments by late July.

One more player stood in his way and that was Braves' right-hander Craig McMurtry. McMurtry had 12 wins through July and the Braves were battling for the pennant. But Darryl continued to improve while McMurtry won just one game over the next seven weeks. At year's end, Darryl ran away in the rookie voting and was the only player named on all 24 ballots.

Darryl adds to an already rich tradition of Mets and the Rookie of the Year Award. He becomes the third Met to win it, the first non-pitcher.

In 1967, with just one season of professional baseball under his belt, 22-year-old Californian Tom Seaver was 16-13 with a 2.76 ERA and 18 complete games. The baby-faced right-hander won Rookie of the Year honors by a wide margin over a pair of pitchers–the Cards' Dick Hughes and the Reds' Gary Nolan. In 1972, left-hander Jon Matlack went 15-10 with a 2.32 ERA over 32 starts. Jon led the club in shutouts that year with four, and easily outdistanced Giants' catcher Dave Rader for the Award.

Three Mets have finished second in the balloting. Second baseman Ron Hunt, the first Met to start in an All-Star Game, hit .272 with 10 homers in 1963, and became an instant fan favorite with his aggressive play. He finished a distant second in the voting, but to another second baseman who did, and still does, play aggressive baseball– Pete Rose.

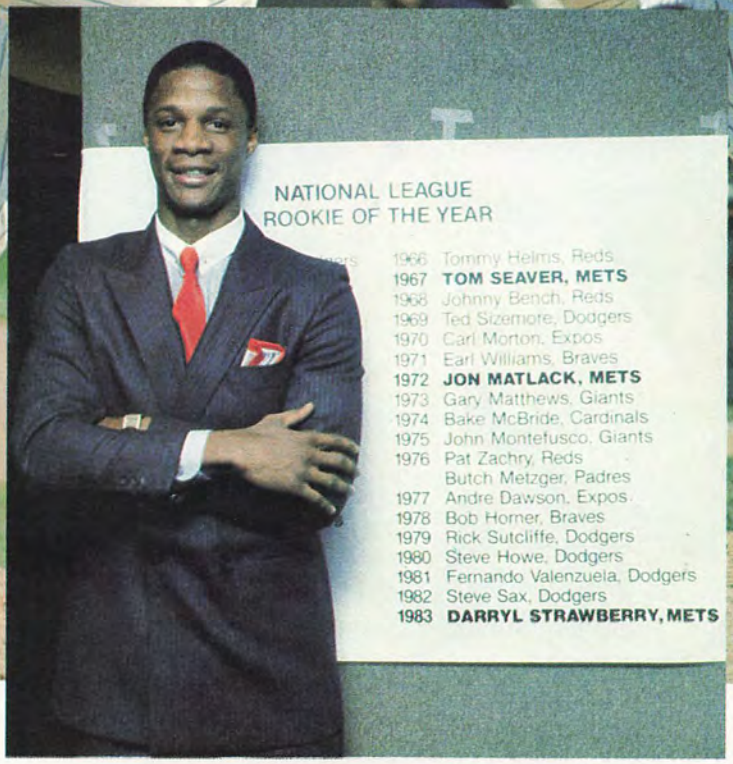
A pair of Mets lost by a single vote–Jerry Koosman in 1968, and Steve Henderson in 1977. Koosman had one of the greatest first years ever by a pitcher, posting a 19-12 record with a miniscule 2.08 ERA, 17 complete games, and seven shutouts. How did he lose? A young catcher named Johnny Bench hit .272 with 15 homers and 82 RBI's to edge him out. Henderson came over from the Reds in the Seaver deal on June 15, 1977, and hit .297 with 12 homers and 65 RBI's in 99 games for the Mets. He lost by one vote to Montreal's Andre Dawson who, over the entire season, hit .282 with 19 home runs and the same 65 RBI's.

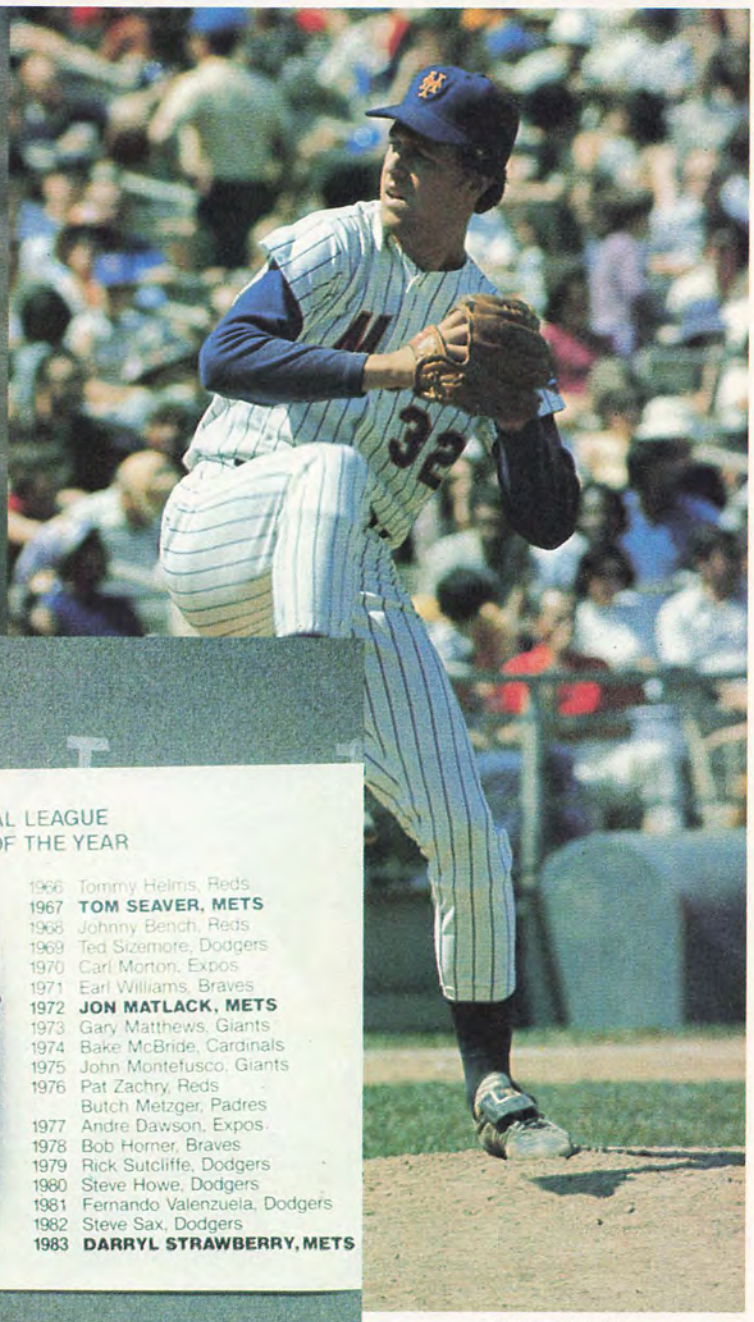
So, Darryl Strawberry has made it to the majors and lived up to all expectations. He made it through the minors, and was an almost instant success in the majors, and he's glad it's over.

"When you're playing ball in towns in Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and riding the buses each day," said Darryl, "your mind starts to take over, and you wonder if you're really good enough to play in the big leagues. People kept telling me that I was the best thing to come along for the Mets in a long time, and I just wanted to prove to myself that I could do it in the majors.

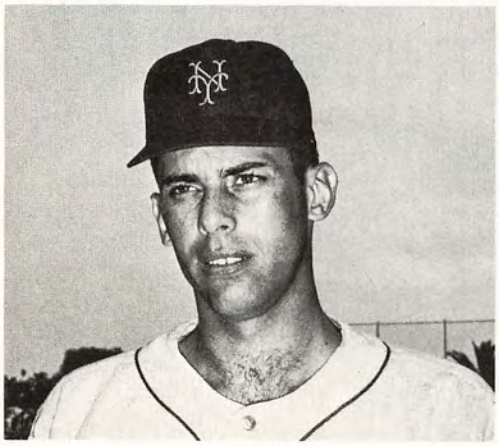
"Well, I'm here, I'm playing in the greatest city in the world, in front of baseball's greatest fans. I'm just gonna' give my best everyday, and hope I help the Mets get up top on the standings where we belong."

TOM SEAVER
1967 Rookie of the Year





JON MATLACK
1972 Rookie of the Year



RON HUNT

JERRY KOOSMAN

STEVE HENDERSON

15 GEORGE FOSTER

George Foster

George Foster finished sixth in the National League in homers, ninth in RBI's, and rekindled memories of his great seasons with Cincinnati.

His 28 homers and 90 RBI's led the Mets, as did his 12 game-winning RBI's. George also passed a pair of career milestones when he collected his 1,500th hit on June 12th, and drove in his 1,000th RBI on August 3.

George, 51st on the all-time home-run list with 289 round-trippers, slugged a pair of grand slams in '83 and now has 11 in his 12-year major league career, tops among active National League players.

1 MOOKIE WILSON

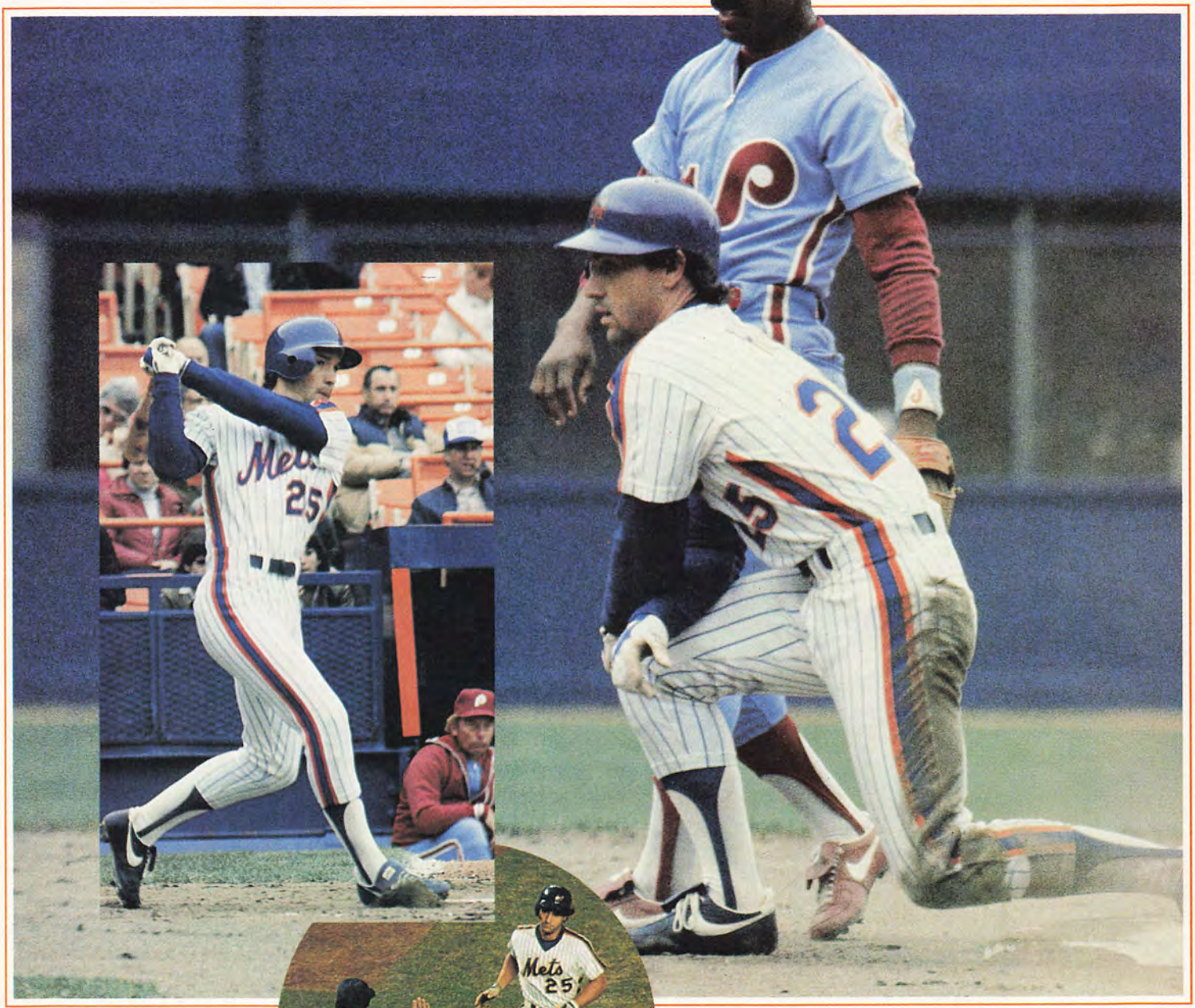
Mookie Wilson

In his third full season in the majors, Mookie Wilson has become one of the premier players in the National League.

Mookie, already the Mets' all-time stolen base king, appeared in 152 games last season and finished first in the league with 638 at bats. He finished fourth in the N.L. in steals (54), and eighth in hits (176) and runs (91).

Mookie plays the game with a flare for the spectacular. For example, no true Mets' fan will forget when, in two games within a week last year, he scored the winning runs all the way from second base on a pair of routine fielder's choice ground balls.

25 DANNY HEEP



Danny Heep led the majors last season with four pinch-hit homers. That set a club record and was just two shy of the all-time mark set by Brooklyn's Johnny Frederick in 1932.

The San Antonio, TX, native hit .275 as a pinch-hitter with 11 hits in 40 at bats, and on the year, established career highs in games, at bats, runs, hits, and homers. Danny, acquired last winter from Houston for pitcher Mike Scott, enjoyed playing in New York hitting .283 at Shea with six of his eight homers.

Danny proved that he's excellent "in the pinch", but hopes to convince Dave Johnson that he deserves more starting assignments this season.

10 RUSTY STAUB

Rusty Staub, at 40-years-old, is still one of the best pure hitters in baseball. Last season he enjoyed one of the top seasons of any pinch-hitter in the history of baseball.

He set a major league record with 81 pinch-at-bats, and, with 25 pinch RBI's, tied the record held by Joe Cronin (1943) and Jerry Lynch (1961). Last June he equalled Dave Philley's big league mark by collecting eight consecutive pinch hits, and was named N.L. Player-of-the-Week in the process.

Rusty's 24 pinch hits were one shy of the all-time record, and his 34 hits on the year moved him into 39th place on the all-time hit list.

PINCH HITTERS

Ed Kranepool, who signed as a 17-year-old fresh out of The Bronx and James Monroe High School in the club's inaugural season, 1962, played 18 seasons for the Mets and is one of the most popular players in the history of the team.

Ed was a very good baseball player who is, and will remain for years to come, the Mets' career leader in seven offensive categories including games, hits, runs batted in, extra base hits, and total bases. He was an excellent first baseman, and the only player who was a part of the Polo Grounds 'amazins', as well as the '69 World Champs and the '73 pennant winners.

But Mets' fans didn't fully appreciate Ed Kranepool as a player and personality until the last six years of his career when he became the Mets' "veteran" player. At that stage of his career, fans realized they had grown up with Ed, from the great expectations when he was a teenager, through the club's maturation and ultimate "glory" years in the late sixties and early seventies. It was also at this time that he became "Steady Eddie" and one of baseball's best pinch-hitters.

From 1974 through 1979, Ed came off the bench to chants of "Ed-die, Ed-die", and often answered the call with a base hit. Ed delivered 63 hits in 181 pinch-at bats during that

DANNY HEEP

RUSTY STAUB

period—a .348 average. He led the league in pinch-hitting in 1974 and 1977 and finished tied for 11th on the all-time career list with 90 pinch-hits.

The 1983 Mets, and Rusty Staub and Danny Heep in particular, made their mark in the pinch-hitting record books. As a team, the Mets tied a major league record; Rusty enjoyed one of the best seasons ever by a pinch-hitter; and Danny led the majors in pinch-homers setting a club record along the way.

Rusty Staub has established himself as one of the best hitters in baseball history, and it almost seems unworthy to speak of him as a pinch-hitter. But that's what he is now, and he accepts the role by being the best in that department. With 2,685 career hits after last season, he is currently 39th on the all-time list, and with his appearance in 2,819 games, he is topped by only nine players in baseball history.

In 1983, Rusty hit .294 as a pinch-hitter with 24 hits in 81 at bats. The 24 hits were one away from the all-time mark held by the Expos' Jose Morales in 1976, and the at bats total set the all-time record. He hit three homers (second in the majors to Heep) and his 25 RBI's tied the major league mark held by Red Sox' Hall-of-Famer Joe Cronin in 1943, and the Reds' Jerry Lynch in 1961. The at bats, hits and RBI's were naturally club record breaking marks previously held by Kranepool.

But the most amazing feat established by Rusty last year tied a mark held by the Phils' Dave Philley and set in 1958. In a sixteen day stretch from June 11 to June 26, Rusty delivered eight consecutive pinch-hits. Included in the eight hits were a pair of doubles, a homer, and seven RBI's.

Jim Frey, Mets' batting coach last season and now manager of the Chicago Cubs, said it best about Rusty. "Rusty is thinking the whole game. He knows he's going to come up once in the game, and most always when it counts the most. He studies the pitcher and his pattern of pitches, the way the catcher is handling his pitcher, and very importantly, he knows the umpire and what kind of game he's calling behind the plate. Not that many hitters can be as disciplined and exact at the plate as Rusty, but when he gets a bat in his hand, he knows exactly what to expect. That's why there aren't many hitters as good as Rusty Staub."

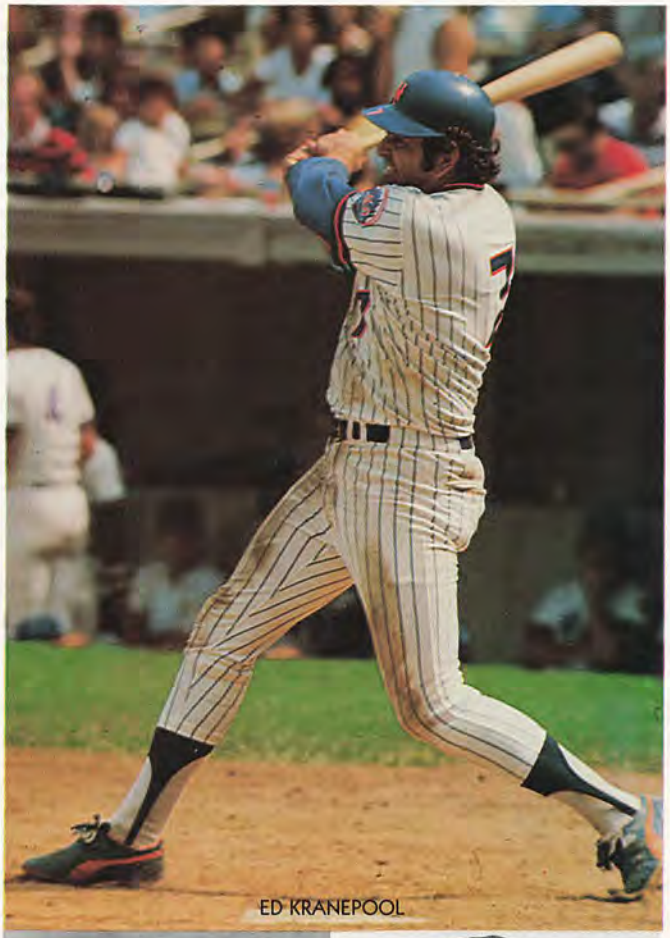
In his first season with the Mets, 26-year-old Danny Heep set a club record with four pinch-homers, just two shy of the major league record set by Brooklyn's Johnny Frederick in 1932. Danny hit .275 off the bench with 11-40, but his homers led the way as the Mets matched a major league record with twelve on the year. To go with Danny's four, Staub added three, Mark Bradely hit two, and George Foster, Mike Jorgensen, and Dave Kingman, one each. The total matched the record previously held by the '57 Cincinnati Redlegs.

Before this season the most pinch homers in a season by a Mets' team was nine held by the '62 Mets at the Polo Grounds, and the '66 team. In '62, Choo Choo Colemen, Ed Bouchee, and Marv Throneberry each hit two, while Chuck Hiller and Ron Swoboda each hit a pair in '66. The most career pinch-homers by a Met is six by Kranepool, followed by Swoboda's five. Four Mets have hit three in a season—Ed Charles in '68; Steve Henderson and Kranepool in '78; and Rusty last year.

When the Mets acquired Felix Millan in 1972, Ken Boswell was relegated to pinch-hitting duties after being the club's regular second baseman the previous four seasons. Ken collected 21 pinch-hits in '72 and '73 but saved his best for the 1973 World Series with Oakland. He collected three singles in three pinch-hit appearances and tied two World Series records. The three pinch-hits are the most in a single series (held with five other players), as well as total Series history (with nine others).

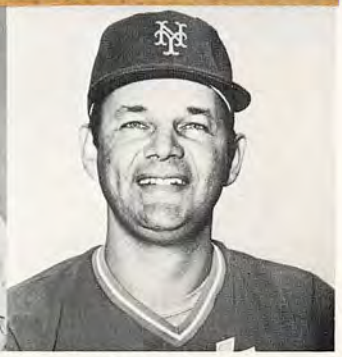
While Kranepool is first on the Mets' all-time list with 90 pinch-hits, Rusty is second with 48, and catcher Rod Hodges is third with 42 in 181 at bats (.232). Ron had a fine season last year "in the pinch" with 6-14 (.429) and five runs batted in.

Many people feel pinch-hitting is one of the toughest jobs in baseball. The Mets, individually and collectively, had an excellent year coming off the bench in 1983, and Dave Johnson is counting on a repeat performance in 1984.



ED KRANEPOOL

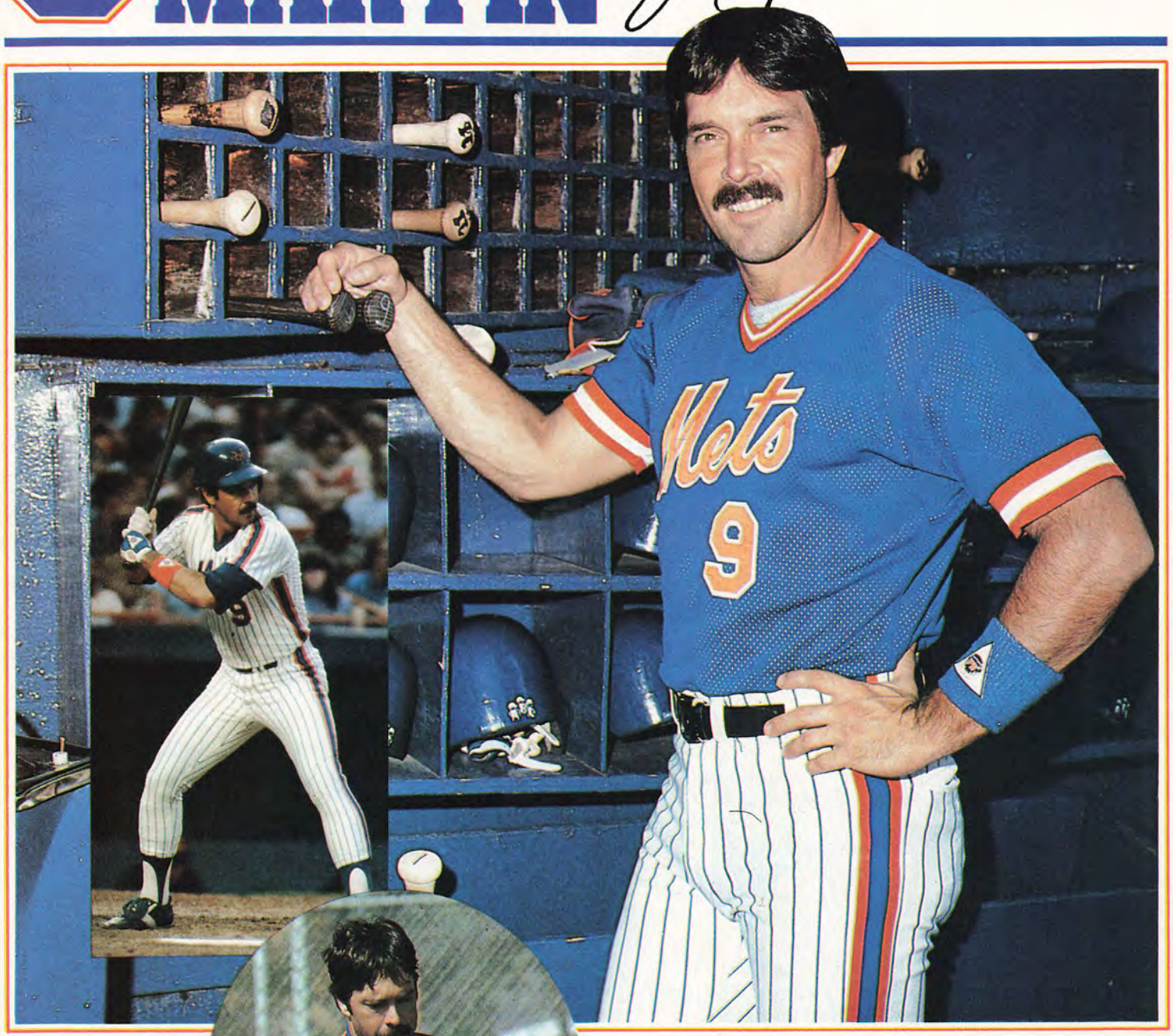
KEN BOSWELL



RON HODGES

9 JERRY MARTIN

Jerry Martin



Dave Johnson knows Jerry Martin's value to a ball club; the two were teammates at Philadelphia in '77 and '78. When Jerry became a free agent, Frank Cashen took Davey's advice and signed him to a contract during spring training.

Jerry is a nine-year veteran in the major leagues and is regarded as a fine defensive outfielder. Signed by the Phillies after starring in both baseball and basketball at Furman University, he broke into the majors in 1974 and has since played for the Cubs, Giants, and Royals.

Jerry, 35-years-old and a native of Columbia, South Carolina, sports a .255 career batting average with 82 home runs. He gives the Mets much needed help off the bench as a defensive replacement, as well as a right-handed pinch-hitter.

PLAYER STATISTICS

Wally Backman 6

INF, 5-9, 160 lbs., SW-R
Born: 9-22-59, Hillsboro, OR; Resides: Beaverton, OR

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1977	Little Falls (Rookie)	.325	69	255	44	83	10	2	6	30	28	53	20
1978	Lynchburg (A)	.302	132	494	86	149	19	9	3	38	74	99	42
1979	Jackson (AA)	.282	110	404	63	114	11	5	2	19	35	50	23
1980	Tidewater (AAA)	.293	125	400	53	117	15	5	1	51	87	67	11
1980	Mets (NL)	.323	27	93	12	30	1	1	0	9	11	14	2
1981	Mets (NL)	.278	26	36	5	10	2	0	0	0	4	7	1
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	.153	21	59	6	9	3	1	0	6	10	8	2
1982	Mets (NL)	.272	96	261	37	71	13	2	3	22	49	47	8
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.316	101	361	69	114	11	3	1	28	68	46	36
1983	Mets (NL)	.167	26	42	6	7	0	1	0	3	2	8	0
Major League Totals		.273	175	432	60	118	16	4	3	34	66	76	11

GWRBI: 1980—0; 1981—0; 1982—4; 1983—0; Total—4.

Bruce Berenyi 27

RHP, 6-3, 215 lbs., R-R
Born: 8-21-54, Bryan, OH; Resides: Sherwood, OH

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1976	Eugene (A)	3-1	4.78	12	11	0	0	0	49	50	37	26	55	39
1977	Shelby (A)	10-8	2.30	25	21	7	2	0	145	102	55	37	75	120
1978	Nashville (AA)	10-5	2.47	23	23	3	0	0	135	107	44	37	63	103
1979	Indianapolis (AAA)	9-9	2.82	25	25	6	3	0	166	134	64	52	98	136
1980	Indianapolis	5-8	4.32	20	20	2	0	0	123	111	66	59	100	121
	Cincinnati (NL)	2-2	7.71	6	6	0	0	0	28	34	26	24	23	19
1981	Cincinnati (NL)	9-6	3.50	21	20	5	4	0	126	97	55	49	77	106
1982	Cincinnati (NL)	9-18	3.36	34	34	4	1	0	222.1	208	90	83	96	157
1983	Cincinnati (NL)	9-14	3.86	32	31	4	1	0	166.1	173	92	80	102	151
Major League Totals		29-40	3.77	93	91	13	6	0	562.2	512	263	236	298	433

Hubie Brooks 7

INF, 6-0, 188 lbs., R-R
Born: 9-24-56, Los Angeles, CA; Resides: Compton, CA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1978	Jackson (AA)	.216	45	153	19	33	8	1	3	16	13	34	3
1979	Jackson (AA)	.305	112	406	68	124	21	2	3	28	51	59	14
1979	Tidewater (AAA)	.400	5	15	1	6	1	0	1	3	1	2	0
1980	Tidewater (AAA)	.297	113	417	50	124	18	5	3	50	36	56	14
1980	Mets (NL)	.309	24	81	8	25	2	1	1	10	5	9	1
1981	Mets (NL)	.307	98	358	34	110	21	2	4	38	23	65	9
1982	Mets (NL)	.249	126	457	40	114	21	2	2	40	28	76	6
1983	Mets (NL)	.251	150	586	53	147	18	4	5	58	24	96	6
Major League Totals		.267	398	1482	135	396	62	9	12	146	80	246	22

GWRBI: 1980—0; 1981—2; 1982—7; 1983—8. Total—17.

Kelvin Chapman 11

INF, 5-11, 172 lbs., R-R
Born: 6-2-56, Willits, CA; Resides: Redwood Valley, CA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1976	Marion (Rookie)	.269	62	219	33	59	7	2	2	15	22	22	12
1977	Wausau (A)	.306	127	493	96	151	28	5	12	47	54	70	54
1978	Jackson (AA)	.266	131	488	84	130	23	5	8	42	56	74	41
1979	Mets (NL)	.150	35	80	7	12	1	2	0	4	5	15	0
1979	Tidewater (AAA)	.241	106	352	45	85	14	2	3	37	45	57	17
1980	Tidewater (AAA)	.211	81	232	30	49	6	1	2	19	21	25	4
1981	Syracuse (AAA)	.226	128	513	77	116	25	3	3	45	58	60	28
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	.280	101	329	53	92	13	2	5	40	43	42	25
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.274	72	223	41	61	8	3	4	28	36	35	14
1984	Tidewater (AAA)	.275	12	40	4	11	2	1	0	6	8	7	2
Major League Totals		.150	35	80	7	12	1	2	0	4	5	15	0

Ron Darling 44

RHP, 6-3, 195 lbs., R-R
Born: 8-19-60, Honolulu, HI; Resides: Millbury, MA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1981	Tulsa (AA)	4-2	4.44	13	13	2	2	0	71.	72	43	35	33	53
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	7-9	3.73	26	26	6	2	0	152.	143	76	63	95	114
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	10-9	4.02	27	27	5	1	0	159.	137	83	71	102	107
1983	Mets (NL)	1-3	2.80	5	5	1	0	0	35.1	31	11	11	17	23
Major League Totals		1-3	2.80	5	5	1	0	0	35.1	31	11	11	17	23

Sid Fernandez 50

LHP, 6-1, 220 lbs., L-L
Born: 10-12-62, Honolulu, HI; Resides: Honolulu, HI

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1981	Lethbridge (A)	5-1	1.54	11	11	2	1	0	76.	43	21	13	31	128
1982	Vero Beach (A)	8-1	1.91	12	12	5	4	0	84.2	38	19	18	38	137
1982	Albuquerque (AAA)	6-5	5.42	13	13	5	0	0	88.	76	54	53	52	86
1983	San Antonio (AA)	13-4	2.82	24	24	4	1	0	153.	111	59	48	96	209
1983	Los Angeles (NL)	0-1	6.00	2	1	0	0	0	6.	7	4	4	7	9
Major League Totals		0-1	6.00	2	1	0	0	0	6.	7	4	4	7	9

Mike Fitzgerald 20

C, 6-0, 185 lbs., R-R
Born: 7-13-60, Long Beach, CA; Resides: Lakewood, CA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1978	Little Falls (A)	.257	48	140	25	36	10	0	5	21	36	29	4
1979	Lynchburg (A)	.253	117	368	55	93	16	4	13	75	54	84	0
1980	Alexandria-Lynchburg (A)	.210	105	338	36	71	10	2	10	44	54	62	5
1981	Jackson (AA)	.312	66	218	28	68	14	2	4	29	24	44	1
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	.155	24	58	9	9	2	0	1	3	5	13	2
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	.245	94	302	33	74	9	2	4	36	41	55	9
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.284	111	370	64	105	17	1	14	65	73	57	2
1983	Mets (NL)	.100	8	20	1	2	0	0	1	2	3	6	0
Major League Totals		.100	8	20	1	2	0	0	1	2	3	6	0

GWRBI: 1983—0; Total—0.

George Foster 15

OF, 6-1, 198 lbs., R-R
Born: 12-1-48, Tuscaloosa, AL; Resides: Greenwich, CT

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1968	Medford (A)	.277	72	253	47	70	9	5	3	30	28	20	3
1969	Fresno (A)	.321	121	449	68	144	5	8	14	85	37	59	1
1969	San Francisco (NL)	.400	9	5	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
1970	Phoenix (AAA)	.308	114	403	54	124	18	6	8	66	41	57	1
1970	San Francisco (NL)	.316	9	19	2	6	1	1	1	4	2	5	0
1971	SF-Cin (NL)	.241	140	473	50	114	23	4	13	58	29	120	7
1972	Cincinnati (NL)	.200	59	145	15	29	4	1	2	12	5	44	2
1973	Indianapolis (AAA)	.262	134	496	77	130	26	1	15	60	44	109	4
1973	Cincinnati (NL)	.282	17	39	6	11	3	0	4	9	4	7	0
1974	Cincinnati (NL)	.264	106	276	31	73	18	0	7	41	30	52	3
1975	Cincinnati (NL)	.300	134	463	71	139	24	4	23	78	40	73	2
1976	Cincinnati (NL)	.306	144	562	86	172	21	9	29	121	52	89	17
1977	Cincinnati (NL)	.320	158	615	124	197	31	2	52	149	61	107	6
1978	Cincinnati (NL)	.281	158	604	97	170	26	7	40	120	70	138	4
1979	Cincinnati (NL)	.302	121	440	68	133	18	3	30	98	59	105	0
1980	Cincinnati (NL)	.273	144	528	79	144	21	5	25	93	75	99	1
1981	Cincinnati (NL)	.295	108	414	64	122	23	2	22	90	51	75	4
1982	Mets (NL)	.247	151	550	64	136	23	2	13	70	50	123	1
1983	Mets (NL)	.241	157	601	74	145	19	2	28	90	38	111	1
Major League Totals		.278	1615	5734	832	1593	255	42	289	1034	566	1149	48

GWRBI: 1980—16; 1981—13; 1982—6; 1983—12. Total—47.

Brent Gaff 45

RHP, 6-2, 200 lbs., R-R
Born: 10-5-58, Fort Wayne, IN; Resides: Churubusco, IN

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1978	Wausau (A)	1-13	5.77	25	18	6	0	0	128.0	159	106	82	68	71
1979	Wausau (A)	10-5	2.98	20	20	10	2	0	145.0	147	71	48	48	99
1980	Jackson (AA)	8-10	4.34	25	25	6	1	0	157.0	184	95	76	76	84
1981	Jackson (AA)	5-1	2.53	7	7	5	2	0	57.0	48	18	16	13	27
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	9-5	2.94	23	21	7	0	0	147.0	150	54	48	64	59
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	9-8	4.02	23	20	5	2	1	132.0	142	63	59	41	83
1982	Mets (NL)	0-3	4.55	7	5	0	0	0	32.0	41	22	16	10	14
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	6-7	6.04	37	11	1	0	5	111.2	132	87	75	43	60
1983	Mets (NL)	1-0	6.10	4	0	0	0	0	10.1	18	9	7	1	4
Major League Totals		1-3	4.89	11	5	0	0	0	42.1	59	31	23	11	18

Ron Gardenhire 19

INF, 6-0, 174 lbs., R-R
Born: 10-24-57, Butzbach, Germany; Resides: Wichita, KS

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1979	Lynchburg (A)	.296	70	277	36	83	13	3	4	27	21	45	9
1980	Jackson (AA)	.258	127	458	58	118	16	6	6	64	45	68	13
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	.254	125	414	52	105	17	8	2	40	28	61	28
1981	Mets (NL)	.271	27	48	2	13	1	0	0	3	5	9	2
1982	Mets (NL)	.240	141	384	29	92	17	1	3	33	23	55	5
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.287	102	387	63	111	20	6	4	39	34	55	9
1983	Mets (NL)	.063	17	32	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	4	0
Major League Totals		.231	185	464	32	107	18	1	3	37	29	68	7

GWRBI: 1981-0; 1982-3; 1983-0. Total-3.

John Gibbons 8

C, 5-11, 187 lbs., R-R
Born: 6-8-62, Great Falls, MT; Resides: San Antonio, TX

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1980	Kingsport (A)	.276	53	181	28	50	7	1	7	34	18	39	1
1981	Shelby (A)	.189	109	360	33	68	11	4	8	57	50	86	2
1982	Shelby (A)	.265	99	321	60	85	13	2	12	67	58	65	6
1982	Jackson (AA)	.278	6	18	1	5	0	1	0	3	1	5	0
1983	Jackson (AA)	.298	110	373	63	111	25	1	18	67	39	84	6

Brian Giles 23

INF, 6-1, 162 lbs., R-R
Born: 4-27-60, Manhattan, KS; Resides: San Diego, CA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1978	Little Falls (A)	.226	61	195	36	44	5	5	4	21	36	48	20
1979	Lynchburg (A)	.299	86	278	40	83	16	2	2	33	47	52	4
1980	Jackson (AA)	.286	132	448	76	128	30	8	10	57	51	80	9
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	.268	121	400	60	107	17	3	7	40	49	70	16
1981	Mets (NL)	.000	9	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	.278	108	352	48	98	32	4	11	54	37	81	16
1982	Mets (NL)	.210	45	138	14	29	5	0	3	10	12	29	6
1983	Mets (NL)	.245	145	400	39	98	15	0	2	27	36	77	17
Major League Totals		.233	199	545	53	127	20	0	5	37	48	109	23

GWRBI: 1981—0; 1982—1; 1983—2. Total—3.

Dwight Gooden 16

RHP, 6-2, 190 lbs., R-R
Born: 11-16-64, Tampa, FL; Resides: Tampa, FL

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	ShO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1982	Kingsport (A)	5-4	2.47	9	9	4	2	0	66.	53	34	18	25	66
1982	Little Falls (A)	0-1	4.15	2	2	0	0	0	13.	11	6	6	3	18
1983	Lynchburg (A)	19-4	2.50	27	27	10	6	0	191.	121	58	53	112	300

Tom Gorman 29

LHP, 6-4, 200 lbs., L-L
Born: 12-16-57, Portland, OR; Resides: Woodburn, OR

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1980	Memphis (AA)	6-4	2.74	25	5	1	0	2	69.	64	34	21	22	45
1981	Memphis (AA)	12-9	3.07	52	0	0	0	22	91.	82	39	31	30	91
1981	Montreal (NL)	0-0	4.20	9	0	0	0	0	15.	12	7	7	6	13
1982	Wichita (AAA)	8-7	5.20	23	16	6	1	1	119.1	131	77	69	35	69
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	1-1	6.35	4	1	0	0	0	11.	12	8	8	4	6
1982	Mtl-Mets (NL)	1-1	2.76	8	1	0	0	0	16.1	16	5	5	4	13
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	6-1	2.92	10	8	1	1	0	61.2	54	25	20	18	58
1983	Mets (NL)	1-4	4.93	25	4	0	0	0	49.1	45	29	27	15	30
Major League Totals		2-5	4.35	42	5	0	0	0	80.2	73	41	39	25	56

Danny Heep 25

OF-1B, 5-11, 185 lbs., L-L
Born: 7-3-57, SanAntonio, TX; Resides: San Antonio, TX

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1978	Daytona Beach (A)	.340	66	212	29	72	18	2	2	24	50	25	0
1979	Columbus (AA)	.327	138	523	103	171	30	5	21	84	49	32	7
1979	Houston (NL)	.143	14	14	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	4	0
1980	Tucson (AAA)	.343	96	376	63	129	28	5	17	69	36	36	0
1980	Houston (NL)	.276	33	87	6	24	8	0	0	6	8	9	0
1981	Houston (NL)	.250	33	96	6	24	3	0	0	11	10	11	0
1981	Tucson (AAA)	.337	78	285	55	96	23	5	11	60	47	19	3
1982	Houston (NL)	.237	85	198	16	47	14	1	4	22	21	31	0
1983	Mets (NL)	.253	115	253	30	64	12	0	8	21	29	40	3
Major League Totals		.248	280	648	58	161	37	1	12	62	69	95	3

GWRBI: 1980—0; 1981—2; 1982—1; 1983—3. Total—6.

Keith Hernandez 17

INF, 6-0, 195 lbs., L-L
Born: 10-20-53, San Francisco, CA; Resides: St. Louis, MO

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1972	St. Petersburg (A)	.256	84	309	38	79	16	5	5	41	42	39	6
1972	Tulsa (AAA)	.241	11	29	5	7	1	0	0	1	0	6	0
1973	Arkansas (AA)	.260	105	388	62	101	20	2	3	52	49	53	8
1973	Tulsa (AAA)	.333	31	120	20	40	6	1	5	25	9	18	0
1974	Tulsa (AAA)	.351	102	353	67	124	18	6	14	63	48	50	0
1974	St. Louis (NL)	.294	14	34	3	10	1	2	0	2	7	8	0
1975	St. Louis (NL)	.250	64	188	20	47	8	2	3	20	17	26	0
1975	Tulsa (AAA)	.330	85	324	70	107	29	3	10	48	62	48	3
1976	St. Louis (NL)	.289	129	374	54	108	21	5	7	46	49	53	4
1977	St. Louis (NL)	.291	161	560	90	163	41	4	15	91	79	88	7
1978	St. Louis (NL)	.255	159	542	90	138	32	4	11	64	82	68	13
1979	St. Louis (NL)	.344	161	610	116	210	48	11	11	105	80	78	11
1980	St. Louis (NL)	.321	159	595	111	191	39	8	16	99	86	73	14
1981	St. Louis (NL)	.306	103	376	65	115	27	4	8	48	61	45	12
1982	St. Louis (NL)	.299	160	579	79	173	33	6	7	94	100	67	19
1983	StL-Mets (NL)	.297	150	538	77	160	23	7	12	63	88	72	9
Major League Totals		.299	1260	4396	705	1315	273	53	90	632	649	578	89

GWRBI: 1980—13; 1981—10; 1982—21; 1983—9. Total—53.

Ron Hodges 42

C, 6-1, 187 lbs., L-R
Born: 6-22-49, Franklin County, VA; Resides: Rocky Mount, VA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1972	Pompano Beach (A)	.256	112	359	59	92	15	4	15	48	71	43	1
1973	Memphis (AA)	.173	47	139	12	24	4	0	1	11	27	30	0
1973	Mets (NL)	.260	45	127	5	33	2	0	1	18	11	19	0
1974	Mets (NL)	.221	59	136	16	30	4	0	4	14	19	11	0
1975	Tidewater (AAA)	.266	95	278	27	74	8	0	2	33	45	33	2
1975	Mets (NL)	.206	9	34	3	7	1	0	2	4	1	6	0
1976	Mets (NL)	.226	56	155	21	35	6	0	4	24	27	16	2
1977	Mets (NL)	.265	66	117	6	31	4	0	1	5	9	17	0
1978	Mets (NL)	.255	47	102	4	26	4	1	0	7	10	11	1
1979	Mets (NL)	.163	59	86	4	14	4	0	0	5	19	16	0
1980	Mets (NL)	.238	36	42	4	10	2	0	0	5	10	13	1
1981	Mets (NL)	.302	35	43	5	13	2	0	1	6	5	8	1
1982	Mets (NL)	.246	80	228	26	56	12	1	5	27	41	40	4
1983	Mets (NL)	.260	110	250	20	65	12	0	0	21	49	42	0
Major League Totals		.242	602	1320	114	320	53	2	18	136	201	199	9

GWRBI: 1980—2; 1981—0; 1982—2; 1983—2. Total—6.

Scott Holman 28

RHP, 6-0, 194 lbs., R-R
Born: 9-18-58, Santa Paula, CA; Resides: Camarillo, CA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1977	Wausau (A)	3-11	3.51	48	2	0	0	11	100.	96	51	39	37	83
1978	Jackson (AA)	11-5	3.25	23	23	6	0	0	138.	128	57	50	66	68
1979	Tidewater (AAA)	13-7	1.99	24	23	7	4	0	149.	125	45	33	51	62
1980	Tidewater (AAA)	3-3	4.88	11	11	1	0	0	48.	54	35	26	18	16
1980	Mets (NL)	0-0	1.29	4	0	0	0	0	7.	6	2	1	1	3
1981	Jackson (AA)	4-9	3.85	20	20	2	1	0	110.	106	57	47	71	43
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	10-8	3.43	24	24	3	1	0	141.2	125	61	54	95	67
1982	Mets (NL)	2-1	2.36	4	4	1	0	0	26.2	23	10	7	7	11
1983	Mets (NL)	1-7	3.74	35	10	0	0	0	101.	90	48	42	52	44
Major League Totals		3-8	3.34	43	14	1	0	0	134.2	119	60	50	60	58

Clint Hurdle 13

C-INF, 6-3, 195 lbs., L-R
Born: 7-30-57, Big Rapids, MI; Resides: Merritt Island, FL

YEAR	CLUB	AVG.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1975	Sarasota (A)	.274	49	175	34	48	4	4	1	31	24	23	1
1976	Waterloo (A)	.235	127	429	89	101	22	5	10	89	18	112	1
1977	Omaha (AAA)	.328	129	442	85	145	35	3	16	66	96	61	6
1977	Kansas City (AL)	.308	9	26	5	8	0	0	2	7	2	7	0
1978	Kansas City (AL)	.264	133	417	48	110	25	5	7	56	56	84	1
1979	Omaha (AAA)	.236	68	220	30	52	13	0	6	29	49	42	2
1979	Kansas City (AL)	.240	59	171	16	41	10	3	3	30	28	24	0
1980	Kansas City (AL)	.294	130	395	50	116	31	2	10	60	34	61	0
1981	Kansas City (AL)	.329	28	76	12	25	3	1	4	15	13	10	0
1982	Cincinnati (NL)	.206	19	34	2	7	1	0	0	1	2	6	0
1982	Indianapolis (AAA)	.245	88	261	38	64	18	0	12	58	58	63	3
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.285	139	477	82	136	33	4	22	105	105	109	0
1983	Mets (NL)	.182	13	33	3	6	2	0	0	2	2	10	0
Major League Totals		.272	391	1152	136	313	72	11	26	171	137	202	1

GWRBI: 1980-5; 1981-3; 1982-0; 1983-0. Total-8

Ross Jones 21

INF, 6-2, 180 lbs., R-R
Born: 1-14-60, Miami, FL; Resides: Hialeah, FL

YEAR	CLUB	AVG.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1980	Vero Beach (A)	.253	70	233	35	59	14	3	4	37	40	49	8
1981	San Antonio (AA)	.266	129	444	75	118	17	2	5	43	43	94	6
1982	Albuquerque (AAA)	.288	128	459	84	132	19	3	9	74	61	87	7
1983	Albuquerque (AAA)	.273	131	469	67	128	18	8	3	56	56	84	17

Tim Leary 38

RHP, 6-3, 190 lbs., R-R
Born: 12-23-58, Santa Monica, CA; Resides: Santa Monica, CA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1980	Jackson (AA)	15-8	2.76	26	26	11	6	0	173.	150	67	53	62	138
1981	Mets (NL)	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	0	0	2.	0	0	0	1	3
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	1-3	3.71	6	6	1	0	0	34.	27	16	14	27	15
1982	(Did not pitch)													
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	8-16	4.38	27	27	8	1	0	160.1	170	100	78	73	107
1983	Mets (NL)	1-1	3.38	2	2	1	0	0	10.2	15	10	4	4	9
Major League Totals		1-1	2.84	3	3	1	0	0	12.2	15	10	4	5	12

Ed Lynch 36

RHP, 6-5, 207 lbs., R-R
Born: 2-25-56, Brooklyn, NY; Resides: Miami, FL

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1977	Sarasota (Rookie)	1-4	3.70	13	6	2	0	2	56.	61	31	23	15	36
1978	Asheville (A)	7-9	3.29	18	18	7	1	0	123.	122	55	45	33	79
1978	Tulsa (AA)	4-3	2.65	7	7	5	0	0	54.	61	25	16	14	44
1979	Tucson (AAA)	10-11	4.79	27	25	6	2	0	156.	184	95	83	37	65
1980	Tidewater (AAA)	13-6	3.15	24	24	11	0	0	163.	151	69	57	42	91
1980	Mets (NL)	1-1	5.21	5	4	0	0	0	19.	24	12	11	5	9
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	7-6	3.91	15	15	6	3	0	99.	93	46	43	29	54
1981	Mets (NL)	4-5	2.93	17	13	0	0	0	80.	79	32	26	21	27
1982	Mets (NL)	4-8	3.55	43	12	0	0	2	139.1	145	57	55	40	51
1983	Mets (NL)	10-10	4.28	30	27	1	0	0	174.2	208	94	83	41	44
Major League Totals		19-24	3.81	95	56	1	0	2	413.	456	195	175	107	131

Jerry Martin 9

OF, 6-1, 195 lbs., R-R
Born: 5-11-49, Columbia, SC; Resides: Columbia, SC

YEAR	CLUB	AVG.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1971	Pulaski (Rookie)	.314	40	156	35	49	8	1	6	28	11	30	4
1972	Spartanburg (A)	.316	132	513	86	162	30	6	12	112	51	96	21
1973	Reading (AA)	.300	135	460	73	138	23	5	17	86	46	104	9
1974	Toledo (AAA)	.290	139	497	67	144	23	4	8	54	43	79	15
1974	Philadelphia (NL)	.214	13	14	2	3	1	0	0	1	1	5	0
1975	Toledo (AAA)	.260	94	342	64	89	12	4	14	40	48	49	24
1975	Philadelphia (NL)	.212	57	113	15	24	7	1	2	11	11	16	2
1976	Philadelphia (NL)	.248	130	121	30	30	7	0	2	15	7	28	3
1977	Philadelphia (NL)	.260	116	215	34	56	16	3	6	28	18	42	6
1978	Philadelphia (NL)	.271	128	266	40	72	13	4	9	36	28	65	9
1979	Chicago (NL)	.272	150	534	74	145	34	3	19	73	38	85	2
1980	Chicago (NL)	.227	141	494	57	112	22	2	23	73	38	107	8
1981	San Francisco (NL)	.241	72	241	23	58	5	3	4	25	21	52	6
1982	Kansas City (AL)	.266	147	519	52	138	22	1	15	65	38	138	1
1983	Kansas City (AL)	.318	13	44	4	14	2	0	2	13	1	7	1
AL Totals		.270	160	563	56	152	24	1	17	78	39	145	2
NL Totals		.250	807	1998	275	500	105	16	65	262	162	400	36
Major League Totals		.255	967	2561	331	652	129	17	82	340	201	545	38

GWRBI: 1980—9; 1981—3; 1982—5; 1983—2. Total—19.

Jose Oquendo 2

INF, 5-10, 156 lbs., R-R
Born: 7-4-63, Rio Piedras, PR; Resides: Rio Piedras, PR

YEAR	CLUB	AVG.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1979	Grays Harbor (A)	.227	64	220	24	50	8	0	1	14	33	45	9
1980	Lynchburg (A)	.169	109	391	38	51	10	3	0	26	47	59	14
1982	Lynchburg (A)	.249	124	393	59	98	8	6	0	38	71	60	38
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	.214	114	337	40	72	8	3	0	22	41	50	24
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.118	13	34	3	4	0	0	0	3	5	6	2
1983	Mets (NL)	.213	120	328	29	70	7	0	1	17	19	60	8
Major League Totals		.213	120	328	29	70	7	0	1	17	19	60	8

GW-RBI: 1983-3. Total-3

Jesse Orosco 47

LHP, 6-2, 185 lbs., R-L
Born: 4-21-57, Santa Barbara, CA; Resides: Carpenteria, CA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1978	Elizabethton (Rookie)	4-4	1.13	20	0	0	0	6	40.	29	7	5	20	48
1979	Mets (NL)	1-2	4.89	18	2	0	0	0	35.	33	20	19	22	22
1979	Tidewater (AAA)	4-4	3.89	16	15	1	0	0	81.	82	45	35	43	55
1980	Jackson (AA)	4-4	3.68	37	1	0	0	3	71.	52	36	29	62	85
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	9-5	3.31	46	10	0	0	8	87.	80	39	32	32	81
1981	Mets (NL)	0-1	1.59	8	0	0	0	1	17.	13	4	3	6	18
1982	Mets (NL)	4-10	2.72	54	2	0	0	4	109.1	92	37	33	40	89
1983	Mets (NL)	13-7	1.47	62	0	0	0	17	110.	76	27	18	38	84
Major League Totals		18-20	2.42	142	4	0	0	22	271.1	214	88	73	106	213

Junior Ortiz 34

C, 5-11, 175 lbs., R-R
Born: 10-24-59, Humacao, PR; Resides: Humacao, PR

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1977	Bradenton (Rookie)	.203	34	118	11	24	5	1	1	12	12	22	1
1977	Charleston (A)	.264	21	53	2	14	3	0	0	10	6	13	0
1978	Charleston (A)	(Did not play—disabled list)											
1979	Salem (A)	.283	108	396	35	112	21	2	5	66	26	55	0
1980	Buffalo (AA)	.346	126	515	79	178	25	1	12	78	43	57	7
1980	Portland (AAA)	.111	8	27	1	3	0	1	0	3	1	3	0
1981	Portland (AAA)	.269	105	346	49	93	14	7	2	46	25	33	5
1982	Portland (AAA)	.292	124	449	46	131	22	0	6	57	34	61	4
1982	Pittsburgh (NL)	.200	7	15	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	3	0
1983	Pitt-Mets (NL)	.249	73	193	11	48	5	0	0	12	4	34	1
Major League Totals		.245	80	208	12	51	6	0	0	12	5	37	1

GWRBI: 1982—0; 1983—1. Total—1

Doug Sisk 39

RHP, 6-2, 210 lbs., R-R
Born: 9-26-57, Renton, WA; Resides: Tacoma, WA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1980	Kingsport (Rookie)	8-5	2.66	15	15	4	0	0	98.	91	46	29	45	41
1981	Lynchburg (A)	3-2	3.25	36	1	0	0	7	83.	78	35	30	32	61
1981	Jackson (AA)	3-0	3.60	14	0	0	0	4	25.	23	11	10	12	15
1982	Jackson (AA)	11-7	2.67	44	9	6	0	5	138.	136	59	41	58	53
1982	Mets (NL)	0-1	1.04	8	0	0	0	1	8.2	5	1	1	4	4
1983	Mets (NL)	5-4	2.24	67	0	0	0	11	104.1	88	38	26	59	33
Major League Totals		5-5	2.15	75	0	0	0	12	113.	93	39	27	63	37

Rusty Staub 10

1B-OF, 6-2, 230 lbs., L-R
Born: 4-1-44, New Orleans, LA; Resides: Houston, TX

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1962	Durham (A)	.293	140	509	115	149	20	4	23	93	116	53	9
1963	Houston (NL)	.224	150	513	43	115	17	4	6	45	59	58	0
1964	Houston (NL)	.216	89	292	26	63	10	2	8	35	21	31	1
1964	Oklahoma City (AAA)	.314	71	226	55	71	13	1	20	45	44	32	1
1965	Houston (NL)	.256	131	410	43	105	20	1	14	63	52	57	3
1966	Houston (NL)	.280	153	554	60	155	28	3	13	81	58	61	2
1967	Houston (NL)	.333	149	546	71	182	44	1	10	74	60	47	0
1968	Houston (NL)	.291	161	591	54	172	37	1	6	72	73	57	2
1969	Montreal (NL)	.302	158	549	89	166	26	5	29	79	110	61	3
1970	Montreal (NL)	.274	160	569	98	156	23	7	30	94	112	93	12
1971	Montreal (NL)	.311	162	599	94	186	34	6	19	97	74	42	9
1972	Mets (NL)	.293	66	239	32	70	11	0	9	38	31	13	0
1973	Mets (NL)	.279	152	585	77	163	36	1	15	76	74	52	1
1974	Mets (NL)	.258	151	561	65	145	22	2	19	78	77	39	2
1975	Mets (NL)	.282	155	574	93	162	30	4	19	105	77	55	2
1976	Detroit (AL)	.299	161	589	73	176	28	3	15	96	83	49	3
1977	Detroit (AL)	.278	158	623	84	173	34	3	22	101	59	47	1
1978	Detroit (AL)	.273	162	642	75	175	30	1	24	121	76	35	3
1979	Detroit (AL)	.236	68	246	32	58	12	1	9	40	32	18	1
1979	Montreal (NL)	.267	38	86	9	23	3	0	3	14	14	10	0
1980	Texas (AL)	.300	109	340	42	102	23	2	9	55	39	18	1
1981	Mets (NL)	.317	70	161	9	51	9	0	5	21	22	12	1
1982	Mets (NL)	.242	112	219	11	53	9	0	3	27	24	10	0
1983	Mets (NL)	.296	104	115	5	34	6	0	3	28	14	10	0
Major League Totals		.280	2819	9603	1185	2685	492	47	290	1440	1241	875	47

GWRBI: 1980—4; 1981—4; 1982—4; 1983—3. Total—15.

John Stearns 12

C, 5-11, 185 lbs., R-R
Born: 8-21-51, Denver, CO; Resides: Boulder, CO

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1973	Reading (A)	.241	67	166	28	40	7	4	3	24	46	26	2
1974	Rocky Mount (A)	.343	62	230	41	79	16	4	4	38	41	14	6
1974	Toledo (AAA)	.266	77	278	34	74	9	2	3	28	26	25	6
1974	Philadelphia (NL)	.500	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1975	Mets (NL)	.189	59	169	25	32	5	1	3	10	17	15	4
1976	Mets (NL)	.262	32	103	13	27	6	0	2	10	16	11	1
1976	Tidewater (AAA)	.310	102	332	64	103	17	2	10	45	71	29	11
1977	Mets (NL)	.251	139	431	52	108	25	1	12	55	77	76	9
1978	Mets (NL)	.264	143	477	65	126	24	1	15	73	70	57	25
1979	Mets (NL)	.243	155	538	58	131	29	2	9	66	52	57	15
1980	Mets (NL)	.285	91	319	42	91	25	1	0	45	33	24	7
1981	Mets (NL)	.271	80	273	25	74	12	1	1	24	24	17	12
1982	Mets (NL)	.293	98	352	46	103	25	3	4	28	30	35	17
1983	Mets (NL)	.000	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major League Totals		.260	802	2664	328	693	151	10	46	311	319	292	90

GWRBI: 1980—4; 1981—4; 1982—2; 1983—0; Total—10

Darryl Strawberry 18

OF, 6-6, 190 lbs., L-L
Born: 3-12-62, Los Angeles, CA; Resides: Los Angeles, CA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1980	Kingsport (Rookie)	.268	44	157	27	42	5	2	5	20	20	39	5
1981	Lynchburg (A)	.255	123	420	84	107	22	6	13	78	82	105	31
1982	Jackson (AA)	.283	129	435	93	123	19	9	34	97	100	145	45
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.333	16	57	12	19	4	1	3	13	14	18	7
1983	Mets (NL)	.257	122	420	63	108	15	7	26	74	47	128	19
Major League Totals		.257	122	420	63	108	15	7	26	74	47	128	19

GWRBI: 1983–11. Total–11

Walt Terrell 49

RHP, 6-2, 205 lbs., L-R
Born: 5-11-58, Jeffersonville, ID; Resides: Belleville, KY

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1980	Sarasota (A)	3-2	1.42	7	5	1	1	0	38.	20	11	6	12	23
1980	Asheville (A)	1-1	6.75	3	2	0	0	0	8.	11	9	6	8	5
1981	Tulsa (AA)	15-7	3.10	27	26	5	2	0	174.	158	74	60	63	123
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	7-8	3.96	21	20	3	0	0	138.2	130	69	61	72	74
1982	Mets (NL)	0-3	3.43	3	3	0	0	0	21.	22	12	8	14	8
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	10-1	3.12	12	12	5	1	0	86.2	76	34	30	44	58
1983	Mets (NL)	8-8	3.57	21	20	4	2	0	133.2	123	57	53	55	59
Major League Totals		8-11	3.55	24	23	4	2	0	154.2	145	69	61	69	67

Rusty Tillman 43

OF, 6-0, 200 lbs., R-R
Born: 8-29-60, Jacksonville, FL; Resides: Atlantic Beach, FL

YEAR	CLUB	AVG.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1979	Little Falls (A)	.318	6	22	4	7	0	1	0	4	3	2	5
1979	Grays Harbor (A)	.295	60	217	33	64	10	1	3	30	34	42	18
1980	Lynchburg (A)	.316	135	526	94	166	27	11	8	79	46	90	43
1981	Jackson (AA)	.278	122	464	66	129	21	4	6	59	24	92	29
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	.322	108	404	60	130	10	6	5	54	37	57	26
1982	Mets (NL)	.154	12	13	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	0
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.255	126	483	67	123	20	7	8	63	34	111	23
Major League Totals		.154	12	13	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	0

GWRBI: 1982-0. Total-0

Mookie Wilson 1

OF, 5-10, 168 lbs., SW-R
Born: 2-9-56, Bamberg, SC; Resides: Lakewood, NJ

YEAR	CLUB	AVG.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1977-Wausau (A)		.290	68	245	50	71	10	2	6	32	33	57	23
1978-Jackson (AA)		.292	132	497	72	145	13	15	7	72	39	70	38
1979-Tidewater (AAA)		.267	141	529	84	141	22	10	5	36	45	91	49
1980-Tidewater (AAA)		.295	132	515	92	152	11	14	4	44	44	86	50
1980-Mets (NL)		.248	27	105	16	26	5	3	0	4	12	19	7
1981-Mets (NL)		.271	92	328	49	89	8	8	3	14	20	59	24
1982-Mets (NL)		.279	159	639	90	178	25	9	5	55	32	102	58
1983-Mets (NL)		.276	152	638	91	176	25	6	7	51	18	103	54
Major League Totals		.274	430	1710	246	469	63	26	15	124	82	283	143

GWRBI: 1980-0; 1981-2; 1983-6. Total-13

THE FARM SYSTEM

Front Row (L to R): John Antonelli, Rich Miller, Al Jackson, Sam Perlozzo, John Tamargo, Ed Charles, Tommy Holmes, Bob Apodaca.

Back Row: Steve Schryver, Director of Minor League Operations, Darrell Johnson, Ken Berry, Dan Radison, Greg Pavlick, George Bamberger, John Cumberland, Bob Schaefer, Mike Cubbage.

Mets Minor League Organization

Director of Scouting
Joe McIlvaine

Director of Minor League Operations
Steve Schryver

Special Assignment Scouts
Buddy Kerr, Harry Minor, Bob Scheffing

Special Instructors
John Antonelli, Ken Berry, George Bamberger, Darrell Johnson

1984 Minor League Teams

Tidewater (VA) Mets
International League (AAA)
Manager: Bob Schaefer
Coach: Al Jackson
GM: Dave Rosenfield

Jackson (MS) Mets
Texas League (AA)
Manager: Sam Perlozzo
Coach: Greg Pavlick
GM: Mike Feder

Lynchburg (VA) Mets
Carolina League (A)
Manager: Mike Cubbage
Coach: John Cumberland
GM: Frank Capiello

Columbia (SC) Mets
South Atlantic League (A)
Manager: Rich Miller
Coach: Bob Apodaca
GM: Bill Blackwell

Little Falls (NY) Mets
NY-Penn League (A)
Manager: Dan Radison
Coach: Charlie Green
GM: Bill Runciman

Kingsport (TN) Mets
Appalachian League (Rookie)
Manager: John Tamargo
Coach: Ed Charles
GM: Pep Faries

Scouting Staff:

Roland Johnson (Eastern & Southern States Supervisor); Dave Madison (Advance Scouting); Carmen Fusco (DE,MD,VA,WV,NC); Dean Jongewaard (CA,AZ); Joe Mason (AL,MS,LA,AR,TN); Bob Minor (CA,NV); Danny Monzon (NY); Julian Morgan (GA,FL,SC); Roy Partee (CA,NV,UT,WY,MT); Carlos Pascual (FL, Latin America Supervisor); Junior Roman (PR,VI,S. Am.,MX); Terry Ryan (WI,IA,IL,MN,ND,SD); Marv Scott (WA,ID,OR); Jim Terrell (TX,NM); Eddy Toledo (DR, Bahamas); Bob Wellman (MI,OH,KY,IN); Len Zanke (New England); Jack Zduriencik (OK,ME,NE,CO,KS).

"COMING ATTRACTIONS"

BILLY BEANE...21-year-old outfielder from Encinatas, CA...was first round draft choice in '80 draft...spent second full season at Jackson last year and hit .246 with 11 homers and 72 RBI's...excellent outfielder with strong arm.

JEFF BITTIGER...22-year-old right-hander from Secaucus, NJ, who led Tidewater in victories with a 12-10 record...didn't miss a turn in the rotation all year...was Texas League Most Valuable Pitcher in 1982 with a 12-5 mark and 190 strikeouts in 164 innings.

TERRY BLOCKER...23-year-old outfielder from Memphis, TN...was number one draft choice in 1981 after earning All-American honors at Tennessee State U...Split '83 between Jackson and Tidewater; hit .308 at Double-A level and .305 for Tides...stole 40 bases on year.

LEN DYKSTRA...21-year-old outfielder from Garden Grove, CA, who stole 105 bases in 128 attempts for Lynchburg in 1983...led league in seven offensive categories including average (.358), hits and runs scored...was named Most Valuable Player in Carolina League.

KEVEN MITCHELL...21-year-old third-baseman from San Diego, CA...paced Jackson with 85 RBI's and was named to Texas League All-Stars...hit .299 with 15 homers and in two previous seasons hit .335 at Kingsport and .318 at Lynchburg.

HERM WINNINGHAM...22-year-old outfielder from Orangeburg, SC...hit .354 at Jackson in 78 games before promotion to Tidewater in mid-season; batted .265 for Tides in 29 games...was named to Texas League All-Star squad and was named winner of Doubleday Award along with John Gibbons.

1984 SPECIAL EVENTS

Four exciting promotion dates have been added to this year's special events calendar—Strawberry Sunday (April 29), "Flip-Flops" Night (June 2), USA Cap Night (July 27), and Sports Watch Day (September 2).

1984 Promotion Dates

Tuesday, April 17 vs. Expos ..... Opening Day Celebration
Tuesday-Thursday, April 17-19 vs. Expos .. Team Calendar Week (Getty)
Sunday, April 29 vs. Phils ..... Strawberry Sunday (Carvel)
Sunday, May 6 vs. Astros ..... Helmet Day (Manufacturers Hanover)
Monday, May 28 vs. Padres ..... Mets Carry-All Bag Day
Saturday, June 2 vs. Cards ..... "Flip-Flops" Night
Saturday, June 23 vs. Expos ..... Mets Cap Day ("Hot Wheels" by Mattel)
Wednesday, July 4 vs. Astros ..... Fireworks Night
Sunday, July 8 vs. Reds ..... Bat Day (Manufacturers Hanover)
Friday, July 27 vs. Cubs ..... U.S.A. Cap Night (Coca-Cola)
Sunday, July 29 vs. Cubs ..... Banner Day (Emerson)
Sunday, August 12 vs. Pirates ..... Sweatshirt Day (Sportschannel)
Sunday, September 2 vs. Padres ..... Sports Watch Day (Tobin's First Prize)
Sunday, September 22 vs. Expos ..... Fan Appreciation Day

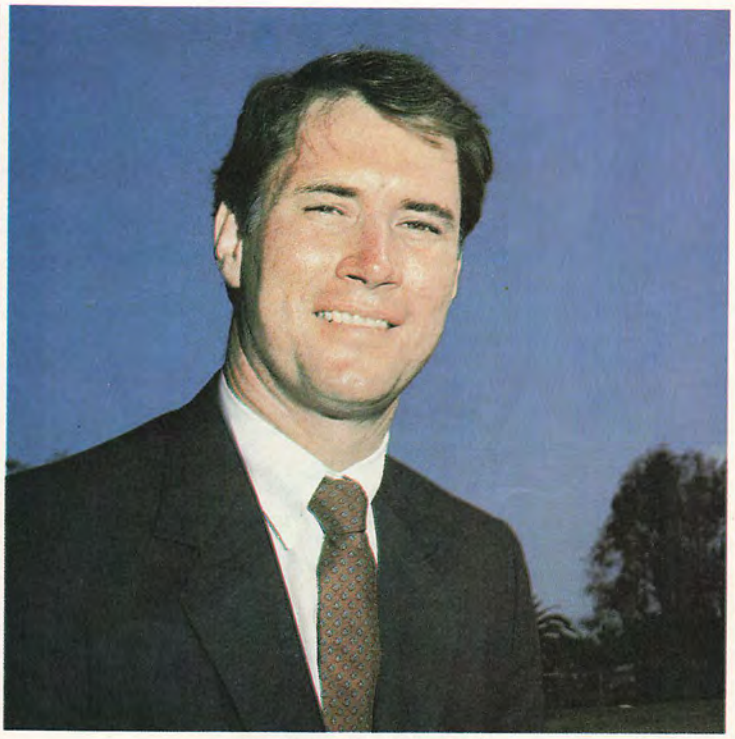
BROADCASTERS

Radio: WHN (1050 AM) is the flagship station of the Mets and will broadcast all 162 games this season.
TV: WOR (Channel 9) will telecast 90 games this year.
Cable: Sportschannel will cablecast 60 games.

Steve LaMar and Bob Murphy (WHN)

Tim McCarver and Ralph Kiner (WOR & Sportschannel) at Oldtimers' festivities last year.

Steve Zabriskie (WOR)



Fran Healy (Sportschannel)

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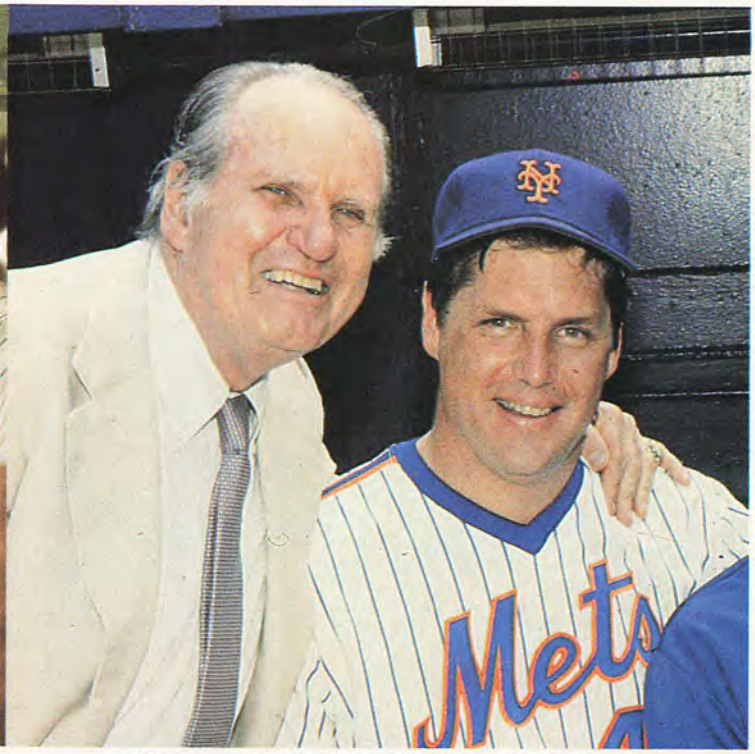
HALL OF FAME

Johnny Murphy celebrates '69 World Championship with Tommie Agee and Cleon Jones.



Bill Shea poses with future Hall-of-Famer Tom Seaver.

William A. Shea, the attorney who engineered the return of National League baseball to New York City after the departure of the Dodgers and Giants in 1957, and the late Johnny Murphy, who, as General Manager in 1969, helped orchestrate the Mets' World Championship, were enshrined in the Mets' Hall of Fame on September 18, 1983.

The Mets' Hall of Fame was inaugurated in 1981 with the induction of Joan Payson, the team's first owner, and Casey Stengel, the club's first manager. In 1982, George Weiss, the President and General Manager from 1962-66, and Gil Hodges, the manager of the '69 Miracle Mets, were named to the Hall.

Bill Shea, in whose honor Shea Stadium is named, was the driving force on a committee formed by then Mayor Robert Wagner whose purpose was to obtain a National League franchise for New York. Through a series of proposals, one of which was the formation of a third league, Major League Baseball responded in 1960 with the decision to expand. One of the two N.L. expansion teams was the New York Mets.

Mr. Shea, one of America's top lawyers, is today one of the Mets' most avid fans, and each Opening Day, he presents the manager with a "good luck" floral piece in ceremonies at home plate.

The late Johnny Murphy, a native New Yorker who was a premier reliever with the Yankees from 1932-46, joined the Mets as head of the Scouting Department in 1961. He was named Vice-President in 1964, and became General Manager prior to the 1968 season.

As General Manager, Murphy guided the Mets to the World Title in 1969. One of the key moves engineered that year by Murphy was his acquisition of Donn Clendenon from the Montreal Expos. Sadly, he passed away in January, 1970.

The Hall of Fame selection committee is headed by the Mets' Arthur Richman, and consists of seven writers and broadcasters who have covered the Mets from their inception.

JOAN W. PAYSON
(Inducted 1981)

CASEY STENGEL
(Inducted 1981)

GEORGE M. WEISS
(Inducted 1982)

GIL HODGES
(Inducted 1982)

JOHN J. MURPHY
(Inducted 1983)

WILLIAM A. SHEA
(Inducted 1983)

MEDICAL TEAM

Dr. James Parkes, Team Physician, and Dr. Fiske Warren Associate Team Physician.

Steve Garland, Head Trainer & Paul Grayner, Assistant Trainer

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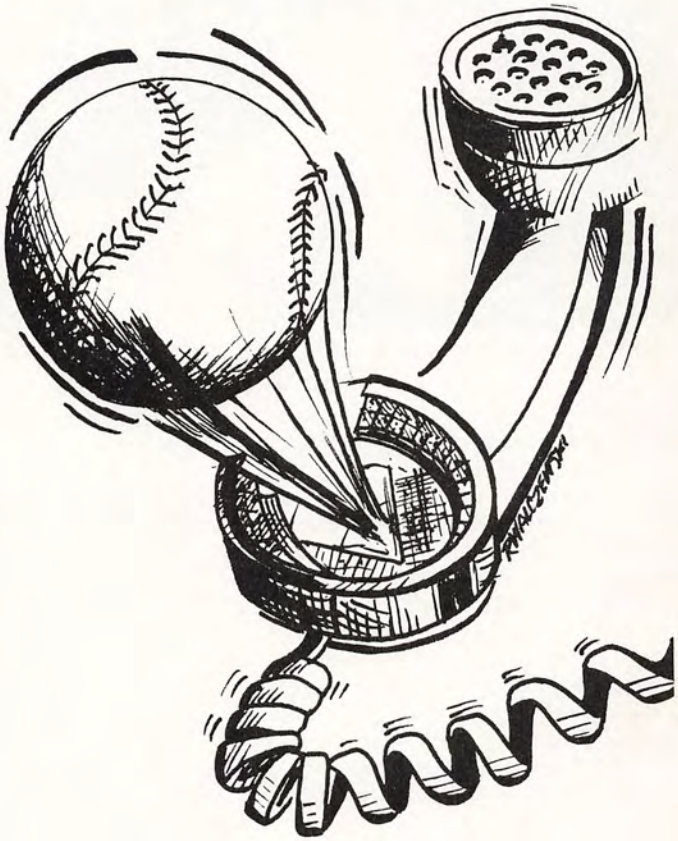

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20th ANNIVERSARY

1984 New York Mets

First Row: Ed Lynch, Jesse Orosco, Hubie Brooks, Ron Hodges, Manager Dave Johnson, Mookie Wilson, Keith Hernandez, Rusty Staub, George Foster.

Second Row: Special Asst. to GM & Travel Director Arthur Richman, Danny Heep, Ron Gardenhire, Ron Darling, Darryl Strawberry, Walt Terrell, Doug Sisk, Wally Backman, Jose Oquendo, Equipment Manager Charlie Samuels.

Third Row: Batboy Paul Greco, Mike Fitzgerald, Brent Gaff, Bruce Berenyi, Tim Leary, Tom Gorman, Jerry Martin, Dwight Gooden, Junior Ortiz, Kelvin Chapman, Batboy Mike Rufino, Asst. Equipment Manager Joe DeLuca.

Sitting (L to R): Head Trainer Steve Garland, Coaches Vern Hoscheit, Bill Robinson, Frank Howard, Mel Stottlemyre, Bobby Valentine, Asst. Trainer Paul Grayner.

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